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# Gateway

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
since 1913

TUESDAY  
December 10, 2004



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## Selection of Herbster as athletics director ends search

ANGIE PECK  
SPORTS EDITOR

After months of searching, a candidate has finally been selected for the athletics director position at UNO.

Chancellor Nancy Belck announced Tuesday that David Herbster has been selected for the position; the selection is subject to the approval of the University's Board of Regents.

"[Herbster] has achieved success at both the NCAA Division I and II levels," said Belck in a press release. "We think his innovative ideas, energy and leadership will equip Maverick athletics with the tools needed to meet the challenges ahead."

Herbster is currently the athletics director at Concordia University of St. Paul, Minn., a Division II school in the Northern Sun Conference. During his tenure at the university, the sports programs won five conference titles and were represented in numerous national tournaments and post-season play.

On coming to UNO Herbster said: "UNO has an excellent athletic program and is in an outstanding community. I'm excited about having the opportunity to lead the program."

After finishing his bachelors and his masters at Virginia Tech, Herbster served

as the promotion coordinator at Virginia Tech from 1992-1994. He then moved on to become the assistant director of marketing and promotions at North Dakota State from 1994-1995.

In 1995 he took a job as the assistant athletic director for marketing and development at Pittsburg State (Kan.). After three years at Pitt, Herbster spent the next three years working for the Special Olympics of Minnesota, first as sports program manager and later as the director of special events and promotions before joining the athletic program at Concordia.

"Everyone that we've talked to is so excited (about Herbster's appointment)," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Patty Patton Shearer. "(Herbster is a) great visionary and has a great work ethic."

Shearer said that Don Leahy, a former director of UNO athletics, was very hands-on in the selection of the athletics director.

Herbster replaces Bob Danenhauer, who announced his resignation in August after serving seven years as the athletic director. Bill Wakefield, UNO's faculty representative to the NCAA, has been serving as the interim athletic director since October.



courtesy photo

David Herbster has been selected for the position of the new athletics director at UNO.

A news conference will be held today at 10 a.m. at the Sapp Fieldhouse where Herbster will meet the staff and media.

## Salvation Army to lose projected \$8 million in donations

STEVE GERTIG  
STAFF WRITER

Nationwide, the Salvation Army will lose a projected \$8 million in donations now that Target decided not to allow the bell ringers at its stores.

In Omaha, the Target at 132nd and Maple Streets was the Salvation Army's No. 1 location for donations.

"It's a major financial loss," said Susan Eustice Visual, director for the Omaha office of the Salvation Army.

Like many retailers, Target has a longstanding policy of prohibiting solicitation on its property, but also a longstanding exception for the Salvation Army.

While the Salvation Army is known for its bell-ringers, not all bell-ringers ring bells.

One plays the cello. At the 84th Street Target location, a woman was known for playing the harp. One person brings his seeing-eye-dog.

According to Target's Web site at www.target.com, the reason for not allowing the bell ringers was due to the fact that "We receive an increasing number of solicitation inquiries from nonprofit organizations and groups each year and determined that if we continue to allow the Salvation Army to solicit, then it opens the door to any

other groups that wish to solicit our guests.

"While some of our guests may welcome the opportunity to support their favorite charity or cause, allowing these organizations to solicit means that Target would also have to permit solicitation by organizations whose causes or behavior may be unacceptable to our guests."

Target's Guest Relations hotline also has the complete statement at (800) 440-0680.

Other stores that prohibit bell ringing are Bag & Save, Menards, Lowes, Village Pointe Shopping Center, the businesses at One Pacific Place (with the exception of Wheatfield's), General Growth Malls including Westroads, Oakview and Mall of the Bluffs (with exception of Younkers stores).

While Target does not allow the bell ringing for the aforementioned reasons, the company does give away about \$2 million a week. That is \$104 million a year. Target takes in \$48.1 billion a year and has a pretax segment profit of \$3.7 billion. Target has a net earning of \$1.8 billion according to their 2003 annual report.



Michelle Bishop

Nationwide, the Salvation Army is slated to lose \$8 million dollars in donations.

The Salvation Army is taking it on the chin twice this Christmas season. One of the stores that they rang at in Omaha was Albertson's. Many of the local Albertson's were bought by Bag & Save. Bag & Save is on the no-ringers list.

One interesting development is that according to www.targetunion.org and The State Journal Register (www.sj-r.com) Springfield, Ill., Target employees decided to volunteer as bell-ringers at other locations.

See SALVATION: Page 4

## Students have additional option for selling textbooks

CRYSTAL R. REID  
FEATURES EDITOR

Selling books at the end of the semester is getting easier and improving, and this semester students have a couple of options for optimal buy back bucks.

Studio54Design.com, an online development company, has recently launched an auction site for your textbooks, hoping to reward you with up to a 60 percent return on the original price.

"We've had dozens of interns come through, and we all came up with (the idea)," said Marc Gaxiola, owner of Studio54Design.com. "If we can help a bunch of students out, then great."

Instead of selling your books back to the bookstore, you can post the book, along with its pertinent information, on the Web site for other students to buy. It has the potential of being a win-win situation for the buyer and seller: books are bought at a higher sell back price, but lower bookstore selling price.

Patience is necessary for an online book auction, however. There is currently no guarantee of buyback, and your book could go unsold for a long period of time.

"It could evolve more, and get more focus per school," said Gaxiola. He hopes that administrators will get more involved to help clarify buy back policies and posting of their own book lists.

Studio54Design.com charges a flat fee of \$3 to post up to five books, and \$5 to post six to 10 books. They've promised to donate some profits to scholarships for the participating schools.

Of course, students always have the reliable UNO Bookstore promising immediate cash, provided the books will be used on campus the following semester.

"About 1/3 of the books won't be used on campus," said UNO Bookstore manager, Michael Schmidt. "In that case, we pay wholesale prices."

Wholesale prices run from pennies up to 40 percent of the original book price, depending on the condition and the age of the book.

"We don't care how many times its been used, just that it's being used next semester," said Schmidt. The bookstore pays 50 percent of the book's new price. They sell it back for 75 percent of the original price.

"There does come a point where it's too marked in," Schmidt chuckled. "But we're pretty easy. If we can repair it, we usually do!"

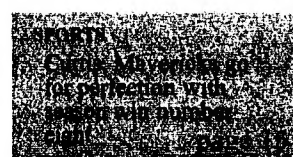
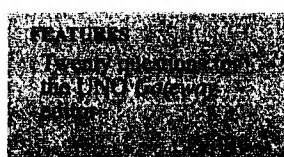
Students need to remember to sell the books back with their original discs in inserts. Without their discs, the books are almost worthless.

Whether using online auctions or the bookstore, with patience or instant gratification, students have a couple of solid options for ridding themselves of those pesky textbooks this semester.

### Omaha Weather

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly Cloudy/Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy/Breezy	Sunny
H: 41 L: 22	H: 49 L: 32	H: 44 L: 21	H: 39 L: 20

### Inside this Issue



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## News Briefs

Compiled by J. Parker Adair  
News editor

Donations wanted for Sigma Tau Delta children's book drive through today

The UNO chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honorary society, is currently holding a children's book drive through today.

Students, staff, faculty and the public are encouraged to drop off new or nearly new children's books in a collection box in the foyer of room 189 of Arts and Sciences Hall or room 100 of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

Sigma Tau Delta members are collecting books for classrooms at Kellom Elementary School, as part of its community partnership.

The Sigma Tau Delta members will wrap and deliver the books to Kellom the following week. For more information, call 554-2699.

**Sociologist George Ritzer to speak at UNO tonight**

Distinguished sociologist and author George Ritzer will speak at UNO tonight. The colloquium will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the MBSC Dodge Room. It is free and open to the public.

Ritzer, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, will present "McDonaldization and the Globalization of Nothing: The Case of Art." He was awarded the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award in 2000 by the American Sociological Association.

Ritzer's body of work focuses on applying social theory to the everyday realms of the

economy and consumption, including "The McDonaldization of Society," "Enchanting a Disenchanted World: Revolutionizing the Means of Consumption" and "The Globalization of Nothing."

The event is sponsored by the Nebraska Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta - the International Sociology Honor Society, the UNO Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the UNO College of Arts and Sciences, and the Creighton University Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

For more information, contact Lucy Garza at 554-3835 or lgarza@mail.unomaha.edu.

**Library hours for December announced**

University Library will observe the following hours during the month of December:

**Today and tomorrow, Dec. 10-11**  
Regular hours

**Sunday, Dec. 12 (Finals Week)**  
Noon to midnight

**Monday through Thursday, Dec. 13-16 (Finals Week)**  
7 a.m. to midnight

**Friday, Dec. 17**  
Regular hours

**Dec. 18-19**  
Closed

**Dec. 20-23**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Dec. 24 to Jan. 2**  
Closed

**Jan. 3**  
University Library opens at 8 a.m.

**Toys-for-Tots drive under way through Dec. 15**

Several campus organizations have joined forces to host a Toys-for-Tots drive on campus through Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Only new, unwrapped toys (\$8-\$20 value) or checks/money orders made out to "Toys for Tots" can be accepted.

Drop-off sites are located in Arts and Sciences Hall (Rooms 383, 347, 108 and 140), and the offices of Scott Residence Hall and Scott Village.

The drive is sponsored by AKD - the International Sociology Honors Society, Psi Chi - the Psychology Honors Society, the Public Relations Student Society of America, Scott Residence Hall and Scott Village.

For more information, contact Lucy Garza at 554-3835 or lgarza@mail.unomaha.edu.

**Winter Commencement set for Dec. 17**

Commencement for December graduates will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, 1804 Capitol Ave.

Lambda Chi Alpha hosts book drive for North American Food Drive and Books for Africa

If the bookstore won't buy your books back, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity has a solution. To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the UNO chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha is doing a used book drive to collect all types of books to help raise proceeds for the North American Food Drive and Books For Africa. Books are being collected until the end of December.

More than 200,000 pounds of food has been raised this year for the NAFD.

A book collection box is located inside the Student Organizations and Leadership Positions Office inside the Milo Bail Student Center. For more information, contact Justin Pence at 659-5637.

**UNO public relations students launch care package drive for troops**

Members of the UNO chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America are creating care packages to send to American soldiers stationed in Iraq.

UNO students, faculty and staff can take their donated items to a drop box in room 140 of Arts and Sciences Hall.

Some of the most frequently requested items are toothpaste, wet napkins, mouthwash, insect repellent, beef jerky, cookies, disposable cameras and calling cards. Donors should make sure all items are non-perishable and fragrance-free.

The soldiers that PRSSA is assisting are members of a medical unit stationed in Iraq that cares for personnel suffering from combat stress and fatigue.

For more information, contact Dallas Lane at (402) 490-4777 or dlane@mail.unomaha.edu.

# Have a fun and relaxing break!

From:

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# International students sing the holiday blues while missing family

COMMENTARY BY KRISTEN FUCHSER  
STAFF WRITER

Can you imagine the holidays without your family and friends? For some students, it's a foreign concept, but for some students here at UNO it is reality.

Many international students will be away from their homes this holiday season. It isn't easy or practical for these college students to fork over a few thousand dollars to travel to their native countries and then back to UNO to finish second semester. So instead they've made other arrangements within the United States.

Anupama Rai, 30, is starting her prerequisites for her masters in sociology. She is from Nepal, and is visiting her sister and brother-in-law and their two children in New York over the winter break. Rai will deeply miss her two-year-old son, Ashutosh, and a husband Ashim, who is a major in the Nepal Army and works with the United Nations. Rai plans to visit Nepal over spring break, but until then she is anxious to spend

time with her sister's family and to see the Big Apple. It has been five months since she's seen a familiar face, and it has been very hard to adjust to a new culture and way of life, she said.

Rai is able to communicate with her family in Nepal every week, via email or a phone call. Rai's advice to other international students is to purchase international phone cards on the Internet because they save her money. She had to find out the hard way by buying the domestic phone cards by mistake. These cards take more minutes away when placing a call to another country and the sound quality is poor.

Nepal celebrates the Hindu holiday, Deshera, on Oct. 1, whereas Christmas is primarily a Christian holiday.

"On this day (Deshera), the elders mix red-colored powder, rice and curd together to make Tika. Then it is rubbed onto the younger generation's forehead. This tradition symbolizes victory over evil," Rai described.

Shoh Ikari, 20, from Tokyo, Japan is

traveling to San Francisco, Calif. for part of his holiday vacation. He'll be back at UNO on Christmas Eve, celebrating with his roommate instead of his family.

It has been five months since he left Japan, choosing Omaha as place of study because, he said, "it is less stressful and less crowded than Tokyo."

"(There is) No Santa Claus in Japan," he said with a chuckle. "Christmas is about the parents giving the children presents if they have behaved well and help around the house. Religion in Japan is much different, we usually go to church for weddings and funerals only," said Ikari.

Ikari noted that having a Christmas cake is one of his family traditions.

Luisa Gomez, 20, from Columbia is traveling solo to Miami to visit her cousin. This is also her first holiday away from her family.

"It is difficult," she said, but her family supports her desire to learn English and American culture.

A typical Christmas and New Year's

for Gomez consists of a "family dinner and church on Christmas Eve, a New Year's bash on Dec. 31st and then watching New Year's Day parades."

She has made friends with other international students quickly by working in the cafeteria at the Milo Bail Student Center and with the help of the International Student Services.

Be compassionate to those who are away from their families and friends this holiday season. We often take advantage of what we have and don't realize how good we have it. Even though at times we may get annoyed being around our relatives, try to imagine if they weren't there and how quiet it and lonely it would be without them. That is how the majority of these students are feeling.

Maybe the next time you see an international student you could acknowledge that they are sacrificing time away from the ones they love. Put yourself in their shoes, and reach out to help others have a happier winter season.

## Campus Security offers crime prevention tips

J. PARKER ADAIR  
NEWS EDITOR

With one week left of school, and a holiday season upon us, Campus Security offers suggestions for students and faculty to protect themselves and their belongings against holiday Grinchies.

"This time of year, a couple of things happen," Campus Security Manager Paul Kosel said, "the book buy back and once everyone leaves for the break, people tend to leave their office open when they leave a room."

Kosel addressed problems that can be made more of an issue with the book buy back program.

"Books get swiped," he said. "People get careless at the end of the semester. We're trying to get people to keep track of their books. Students will leave a book for a minute and when they get back, it's been stolen and somebody sells it back that fast."

While the book buy back period will die down once students leave campus, one holiday tip, Kosel shares can be used all season long. If you are on campus or at a shopping center, do not leave things in your car unattended or doors unsecured.

"People take stuff," Kosel said bluntly.

"When people do their Christmas shopping, they tend to leave things on the back seat, or they'll leave CD's in the back. If you can, lock it in the trunk and do it before you get on campus."

Kosel pointed to an incident on Dec. 2, when a suspect watched the St. Margaret Mary's parking lot waiting for someone to put something in their trunk. After the individuals left, the suspect pried at the trunk to remove items. Luckily, a fellow student called Campus Security immediately and the suspect was apprehended and later arrested by Omaha Police.



Michelle Bishop

To keep belongings protected, do not leave things in your car in plain sight or doors unsecured.

"Sometimes someone will go next door for a few minutes for something and leave their door open, and then it turns into 20 minutes. Lock your doors," Kosel said.

That also pertains to South Campus dorms.

"People will tailgate behind you," Kosel said. "Pull the door closed behind you. The door could stay open and in comes someone with access to the whole building."

The warning isn't meant to scare students, but to make them aware of things that can occur due to carelessness and accessibility.

"A lot of things have happened over and over again," Kosel said. "I just wanted to get something out there. Don't get lackadaisical out there. Don't let something get away from you. Everybody is crammed for cash right now and you don't want to have to repurchase a gift for your brother just because you left your door open. This time of year things tend to grow legs."

University housing can also be a problem.

From SALVATION: Page 2

Springfield employees do one volunteer event a month.

Mervyn's, a mostly western department store, which until recently was owned by Target, has decided as one of its first independent decisions to bring back the bell-ringers.

According to an article at www.Forbes.com, in 2002, Walmart was No. 1 in total cash donations at \$136 million compared to Target's \$96 million. However, Target gave a larger percentage at 2.56 percent, compared to Walmart's 1.02 percent. Target was second only to Albertson's percentage-wise.

For those who do all their Christmas shopping online, www.ringbells.org, a Salvation Army Web site, has its own E-kettle, as well as an easy way to sign up to be a bell-ringer. The organization can always use more and the money stays in Omaha. Ringers are welcome to bring their own musical instrument.

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# FEATURES

Crystal R. Reid | Features Editor

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features@gateway.unomaha.edu | December 10, 2004

## Twenty questions for the UNO Gateway Editor

COMPILED BY CRYSTAL R. REID  
FEATURES EDITOR



(PHOTO BY CRYSTAL R. REID)

**Name:** Kimberly Bryant  
**Age:** 21  
**Year:** Junior  
**Major:** Journalism (Public Relations/Advertising)  
**Hometown:** Omaha, NE

**1. Describe yourself in five words:** "Funny, patient, hard working, sensible, independent."

**2. What are you most proud of accomplishing and why?** "Attaining my goals—going to college, being active and being editor of a university paper. I wanted to do that in high school."

**3. What would you change about yourself?** "Manage my time better."

**4. What do you want to be when you grow up?** "I'd like to work in public relations or advertising, possibly in some form of graphic design or anything that allows me to be creative."

**5. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** "Most likely working for a PR firm in a successful position, (but) not overly successful. Married and hopefully satisfied with my life."

**6. What's in your CD player right now?** "Ludacris, *The Red Light District*."

**7. Who is the greatest band/performer of all time?** "I like Coldplay. I actually listened to the whole CD."

**8. Greatest movie of all time and why?** "Pootie Tang! Don't put that. I can't think of anything right now except for *Requiem for a Dream*. It was just so scarring that you'd never want to do drugs, because you saw how much damage it did to the characters and then you see it in real life."

**9. What do you think about prayer in school?** "Well, I went to Catholic schools up until (I came to) UNO. So prayer and school have never really been an issue for me. But I think there are so many different religions that when talking about public schools, it's necessary to respect all the different faiths. I don't think it should be outlawed, but students should be allowed to have that free speech and spirituality...students should be allowed to pray, but as far as group prayer, it's up to that individual person and not for the schools to decide."

**10. Now that medicinal marijuana has reached the Supreme Court, do you think it would be beneficial or harmful?** "I've read about cancer patients going through chemotherapy and how it's been beneficial to them. I don't think it would be that much of a problem, but we have enough crazy people running around, I don't think we need a bunch of potheads."

**11. What do you feel are the major issues now that the president is in office for four more years?** "Gaining the respect of the people who didn't want him in office to begin with and improving U.S. relations with Europe, everything with the Iraq war, trying to straighten things out with Iran and North Korea and not getting us into a bunch of trouble and not reinstating the draft."

**12. What was your most defining moment as Editor-in-Chief?** "Realizing that anything that goes into this paper or any action that's taken, I'm overall responsible for the whole thing. Anything that goes wrong—it's in my hands, I have to take care of it...running the paper is a huge responsibility and that it has to be taken very seriously, not lightly. Also knowing that whatever goes into it affects not only me, it affects our staff and it also affects the students."

**13. What are you thankful for this holiday season?** "Friends, family and not getting into any car accidents since April."

**14. Who would win in a fight between Batman and Superman (and why)?** "I'd probably say Superman, because Batman's human, therefore he's fallible, while Superman isn't from this planet. He probably has a little more strength than Batman does."

**15. What would you change about UNO and why?** "The parking and how much students get involved."

**16. Why did**

**you choose UNO?** "It was close to home and it was cheap."

**17. What advice would you give to incoming freshman?** "Don't think that just because you're not in high school anymore, you can skip class. You don't need to get into the habit of it. Get into a good study routine and stick with it for all four years."

**18. Anything you'd like to say to your professors?** "Thanks for being so patient this semester."

**19. What helps get things done on time?** "Fear of flunking and not doing the project or paper correctly. But I can't say that I do everything on time."

**20. What would you like to say to the next Editor-in-Chief?** "Take your job seriously, but have fun. Be very observant."

## Holiday recipes to impress

LORI STUHR  
STAFF WRITER

Another year has flown by and it is time once again to gear up for the holiday season, complete with family gatherings, friendly get-togethers and those wonderfully awkward office parties.

Despite the drastic differences among these holiday events, there is one thing that they all have in common: food! It is the status symbol of the season. Here are a couple of quick and tasty holiday recipes that are sure to impress Aunt Ida, the boss and all of your friends:

### Fiesta Dip

#### Ingredients:

2 eight-ounce packages of cream cheese

1 16 oz. can of salsa

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

#### Steps:

**Step1:** Whip together cream cheese and salsa with an electric mixer.

**Step2:** Pour mixture in a 9X13 pan and spread evenly.

**Step3:** Sprinkle mixture with shredded cheese.

**Step4:** Serve with tortilla chips.

See **HOLIDAY RECIPES:** Page 6



*"May the beauty of the season bring you and your family joy, peace and hope in the New Year."*

*Nancy Belck*

Chancellor

# UNO student tells her experience of being homeless

ANGI SADA  
STAFF WRITER

She sports big, black boots and a leather jacket. She is rail thin and owns a head full of spiky, pink hair. Junior Ramanda LeBrun looks tough because she is tough. After growing up on the streets and bouncing from one Maine Department of Human Services placement to the next, she has never given up on being herself.

"I hate that it seems that I am often not taken seriously by people because of how I look and I refuse to have to conform to make them feel better," she said.

The self-proclaimed punk found herself living on the streets for the first time when she was 14 and again at 18 and 21. Becoming homeless was easy, but being homeless was a different story said LeBrun.

"When I was 13 my mother got rid of me. She gave me to the state and they don't give a sh\*t about anyone. When they had no place for me to go, I got left to fend for myself.

"If you were lucky, there is a overnight shelter called the Lighthouse, but it was first-come-first served and they did not have many beds. In fact, I only managed to stay there two or three times."

LeBrun left the streets whenever the state would find her a placement, but it was usually a short-term deal.

"Apparently, I was hard to place so when my ever-changing caseworkers did have a place for me to go, it was usually a temporary shelter-type place— 28 days and after that it is get your ass out."

She wound up on the streets again after the state no longer had control over her. LeBrun feels that it was because of her punk looks and youth. She was evicted from an apartment shortly after being released from Maine DHS custody.

"The second time (that I was homeless) was right around when I got to not be a ward of the state any more. I had to leave my apartment because the landlord was afraid that without DHS involvement that my rent would not be paid."

She said that the apartment was not exactly the Hilton.

"The week after I moved in we found a dead guy on the building's front porch. He froze to death. It really made me aware of how

more difficult than she thought it would be.

"I took what clothes I could fit in garbage bag, a handful of CDs and had to go to my mother's house. By this time, she had three other kids and there was no room at the inn. She is also kind of a nut job. One day I got home from work and was going out with one of my friends, she said not to come back.

"I did not (go back) but I had no place else to go and thus began my last homeless adventure in misery."

## Holidays can be hard on the homeless population

Pastor Chuck Kent, Director of Men's Ministry, of the Open Door Mission feels that attitudes of the homeless change during the holidays.

"It's cold out and gloomy. They become more somber. Some become more religious," he said.

In order to keep the spirits of the homeless and near homeless in the Omaha area, Kent says that the mission offers several programs. This includes The Great Thanksgiving Banquet, which drew a record a crowd of 6,000 this year, and Happy Birthday, Jesus, a day of parties for children at which they receive toys and watch entertainers.

According to Kent, there are many ways that the student community can help the residents of the mission, including mentoring.

"We're always looking for more mentors. It's an actual program. The mentor program

it could have been me."

Her final stint on the street was after returning to her mother after living with an abusive boyfriend. Once she mustered the courage to sneak out of the apartment she shared with him, with a garbage bag of possessions in tow, she asked for refuge but found that it was

pairs up volunteers with the residents. They go out together about on a weekly basis. You (students) can come in and help serve food. We always need help in the receiving area and in the distribution center."

As the cold approaches, the numbers of people seeking shelter increases. Kent said that in the last three weeks the nightly population has grown by about a third.

"Tonight we have about 150. One hundred and ninety one (people) is the most we've ever had. Two or three weeks ago we had 90, 92 men (in the men's shelter) and it's not really cold yet."

For more information, or to help, contact the Open Door Mission at 422-1111.

-Angi Sada

(Editor-in-chief Kimberly Bryant contributed to this article)

She said that she was homeless "on and off again periodically for so long that I have no idea (for certain). The last time was about four and half months. (It's) Hard to keep track of time when you can barely find a place a place to sleep, eat or bathe, you know."

LeBrun said that winters were particularly difficult due in part to the climate of the region and partly due to the holiday season. All in all, though, the experience was inherently awful.

"All of it, winter in Maine with no house, the always being hungry, being seen as sh\*t from people who were not, people who are predatory, being raped, having little to no feeling of self worth, how hard it is to go from homeless to not homeless, the constant fear—nothing sucked the most, it all sucked. It had more sucking power than a Dirt Devil."

The holidays were particularly sad and frustrating. Saying that she saw how shallow the season could be, LeBrun was often so disheartened that she lost her desire to be a part of the season.

"(I was) Bitter, angry, sad, but that is what it feels like to know that everyone in those houses had a home and friends and family and food

and clothing everyday."

Christmas on the streets was "cold and horrid. All the damn decorations just pound it back at you that they may all love the season of selfishness and consumerism, but you have nothing more today than you did yesterday."

Sometimes she would buckle under the heart-numbing cold and nagging hunger that tore at her stomach and seek warmth and sustenance at a Portland soup kitchen.

"I sometimes broke down and went to the soup kitchen. On Christmas, you got a Santa cookie with your sandwich and they gave out little gifts."

The gifts only added to her frustration with being homeless.

"I had no home, no food, nothing. Someone tell me what good a cheap tape player 'walkman' did for me? Gloves or a hat would have been better. I had no money for music or batteries, but everyone got one that day."

That Christmas while everyone else was tucked in warm beds with visions of sugarplums dancing through their heads, LeBrun was huddled in "Deering Oaks Park playground, under the big, wooden tower thing for kids to play on."

While she was never a big fan of the holidays in the first place, today, LeBrun approaches them cautiously.

"It was never my favorite time of year to begin with but now I really hate it. I hate it. It is all about loot and not about caring for other people. I hate Christmas."

LeBrun said that it's important to recognize that being homeless doesn't negate an individual's self-worth.

"Being homeless is not something that is your fault. Bad things happen to good people, not everyone is some pregnant crackhead who won't do anything for themselves. We are generally just like you but (in) circumstances usually far beyond our control."

Even though it is a little difficult and awkward, LeBrun feels that it is imperative that people hear her story.

"I kind of figure that if people know about me they may see me as equally human. I can use it as the best reason I can think of to admit it, to make people aware of it and try in whatever way I may to change it."

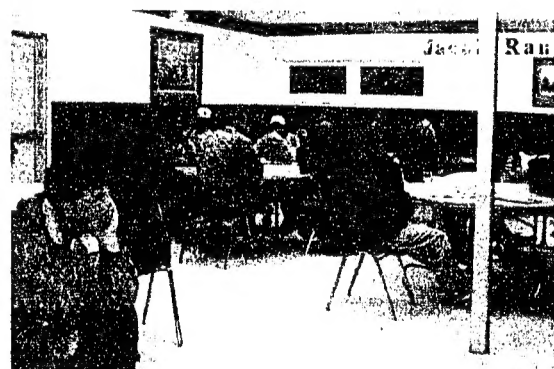
"There is no reason for a 14-year-old kid to have to be homeless. DHS has no excuse but they are not held accountable. They won't be unless people know."

LeBrun does admit that, since moving to Omaha to be with her husband Skot, the holidays, and life in general, have gotten better.

"I still hate Christmas, but I love my family and my ultra-cool friend. I don't need a holiday to tell them how much I appreciate them."

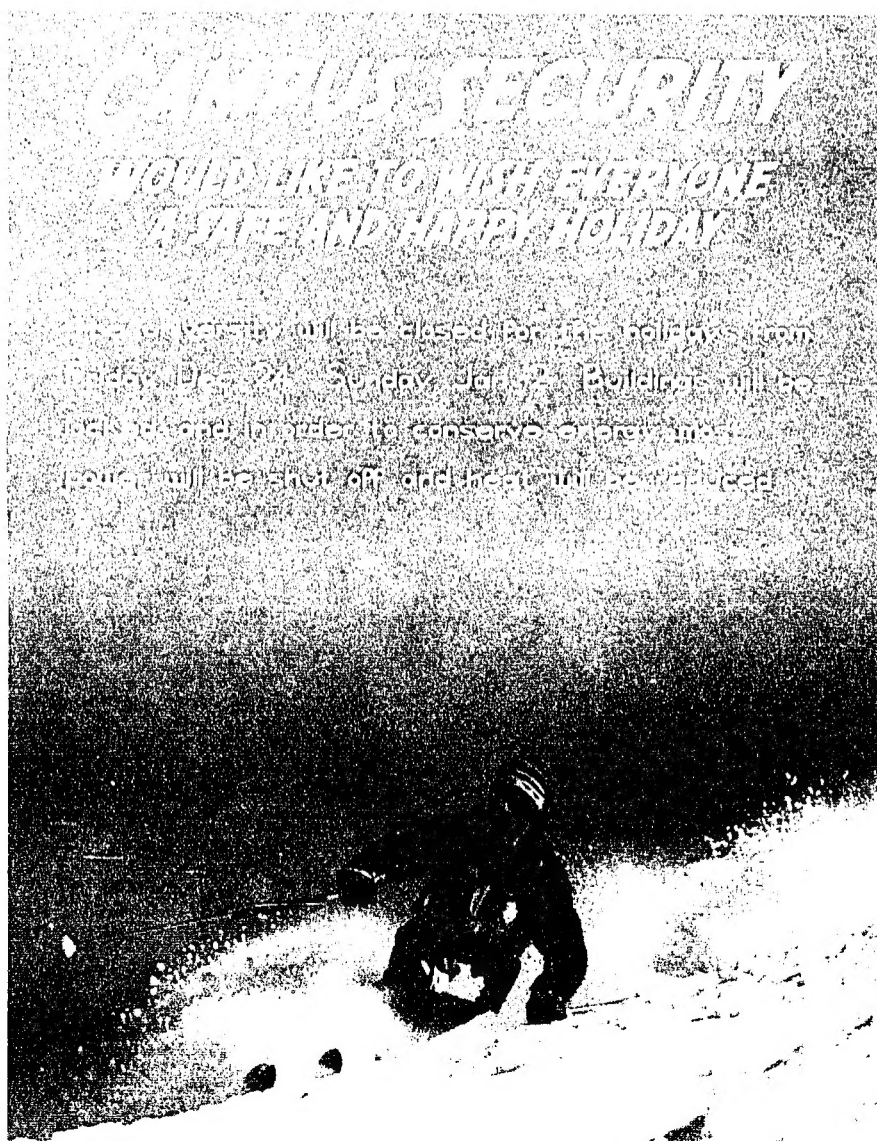
However, she may be acquiescing to the holiday spirit a little.

"I have a box of Christmas cards but only, like, two people to send them to."



This group of homeless men seek shelter at The Open Door Mission. Cold weather increases the number of people seeking shelter.

Angi Sada



ANYONE NEEDING ACCESS SHOULD CONTACT CAMPUS SECURITY AT:

**554-2648**

From HOLIDAY RECIPES: Page 5

### Mom's Milk Chocolate Peanut Clusters:

#### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. of white almond bark
- 2 12 oz. packages of semi sweet chocolate chips
- 2 lbs. of salted, blanched peanuts.

#### Steps:

- Step1: Melt together the chocolate chips and almond bark in a double boiler pan.
- Step2: Pour melted mixture over peanuts.
- Step3: Drop mixture on aluminum foil by teaspoon.

Enjoy!



## Tips for holiday shoppers

COMMENTARY BY CRYSTAL R. REID  
FEATURES EDITOR

In a world where money grows on roses and babies giggle harmonies instead of screaming obscenities, consumers would be extremely patient, understanding and happy during their holiday shopping.

But in this world of hectic holiday deals, crazy Christmas lines and understaffed businesses, consumers will be anything but kind and cheery, and many times their frustrated, semi-violent rage falls on the lowly, seasonal, part-time worker. That poor part-time worker generally runs on only two hours of training before being thrown into a virtual storm of holiday shoppers.

To ensure that everyone, including your sales person, has a friendly and fright-free holiday, here are a few tips from a seasoned salesperson for keeping your patience and getting the best customer service possible:

• **Do** expect the salesperson to be generally friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. All sales associates are there for the customer, and should always be relatively welcoming.

• **Don't** snap "I don't need your help!" when a salesperson asks how your day is. You will most likely be carefully avoided for your entire shopping experience, despite your desire for help later on.

• **Don't** assume that a salesperson will watch your children while you are trying on clothes. The children will most likely end up locked in a fitting room by the time you come out.

• **Do** check the store's return policy in case the item does not work as a present.

• **Don't** assume that raising your voice to a single salesperson about an unsatisfactory return policy will change the company's standards. Too many people yelling in one day can result in a severely frazzled, frustrated and upset salesperson.

• **Do** realize that some salespeople have been working, for you, since 6 a.m., even after having left the store at midnight the night before. Sometimes they get tired and much less perky.

• **Don't** ignore the lines. Starting a line at an empty register does not guarantee a worker will jump in and help you. It does guarantee that the customers waiting in the other lines get very angry at your disregard for them.

• **Do** assume that your salesperson is knowledgeable, but don't assume they're mind readers. It is so much easier for you and them if you have a distinct description of the item, sizes needed and brand name, in the case of electronics. Make a list!

• **Do** read the fine print. Yes, stores try to market with big sale signs, while often only specific items are on sale. If you're unclear about something, just ask. Don't get angry if what you wanted is not on sale.

• **Don't** snap your fingers at a salesperson to get their attention. They aren't dogs.

• **Do** have fun. Shop as early in the day as possible. Crowds normally settle into their grooves around 2 p.m. and rarely taper down until 8 p.m. Know the mall hours!

## What to give, what to get

I know the holidays aren't all about the material things in life, and that's what makes them so special; they're a break in the monotony of everyday life. While everyone looks forward to presents, they also look forward to spending time with the family, a break from school and decorating the tree. Winter may be the coldest season, but it is filled with the warmest memories.

Okay, now that I got that out of the way, and I'm not trying to commercialize the holidays, I swear (though just about every company in the world is), I'm going to give you my top list of what to give and what to get.

### What to give:

• **Gift certificates**—You never thank them enough, so give your loved ones the gift that says it all—pampering spa treatments!

• **Comfy duds**—Victoria's Secret's Pink collection has the cutest pajamas and scrub clothes around. Who wouldn't love to cuddle up in comfort this season?

• **DIY**—Basically, do it yourself. Definitely the most thoughtful of all gifts, this can be presented in the form of a calendar of family pictures, scrapbook of your girlfriend (or boyfriend), funky jewelry. Another DIY idea is a will-do coupon book of things you will do and anything else you can possibly think of. I know that one of the best gifts I ever received was one of these.

• **Magazine subscriptions**—Get Grandma her favorite knitting magazine or your brother a *Maxim* subscription. It's the gift that keeps giving all year round!

### What to get:

• **iPod mini**—I prefer pink, but they also come in green, blue, silver... also you can get an adapter that will play in your car. No more CD

### Real Fashion



Alex May

changing-induced accidents!

• **iBook**—What can I say, I'm a fan of Apple products of late. The new laptops are sleek and much more compatible—they come with Windows XP! The new iMac G5 is really cool too, with the whole computer built into one 3-inch thick compact screen. So small!

• **Ski boots**—Not the real thing, mind you, but the cute fashionable sort to wear over jeans and just trek about the town in.

• **Gift certificates to the salon/spa**—Manicures, pedicures, massages or highlights, the choice is up to you!

• **The new Ford Mustang**—Far-fetched, I know, but what can I say, I'm in love!

• **Magazine subscriptions**—This is one thing I never buy myself. And I waste way too much money buying cover-price. My suggestions: *Elle*, *People*, *Us Weekly*, *Star*, *Vanity Fair*, *Maxim*, *Elle Décor*, *Lucky*, *Shopping*, *GQ* and *Rolling Stone*.

• **DVDs**—I'm working on getting the whole *Sex and the City* set, but there are obviously endless options with this one.

It seems that every year the holidays get a little less exciting, and I know I'm not the only one who feels that way, but this year I'm out to change all that.

There are so many cool things to do this time of year; ice skating, sitting by the fire, looking at Christmas lights, carriage rides and traveling.

Just because I'm not staying up late to see what Santa will bring and waking up at the crack of dawn to see if I got Figure Skating Barbie, the holidays still hold so much excitement. Only these days, it's not the toys or frosted candy cane cookies (though I still love them) that I'm looking forward to.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, no matter what or how you celebrate!



# Happy Holidays

from the Milo Bail Student Center

## Graduate teaching assistant makes learning worthwhile

Jessica Curd  
Staff writer

Public Speaking Fundamentals is a class that many UNO students wish they didn't have to take. No one wants to get up in front of a class of people they don't know and deliver a speech on some random topic they have no interest in.

Some students may feel nervous just thinking about speaking in public. Some may feel the class isn't worth their time. But Michelle Gauchat, a 22-year-old graduate teaching assistant for the UNO School of Communication, has put a different spin on the much-dreaded class.

Gauchat is a native of Rochester, N.Y. At the State University of New York College at Brockport, she studied communications focusing on rhetoric theory and political communication. After graduating early from undergraduate college, she landed a graduate assistantship at UNO. Now she juggles teaching public speaking classes, holding office and Speech Center hours and taking graduate school night classes.

In her past experiences, Gauchat has found that students usually respond positively to having such a young professor. She said that only a few of her past students did not prefer a teacher so young. She believes that her young age has contributed to her strong ability to relate to her students. She knows exactly what students go through, since she is still experiencing the rigors of college. Students appreciate this because some older professors don't retain the same empathy for their students.

After taking Gauchat's speech class, most students think, "Wow, this class wasn't bad at all." Despite the busy work and the standard required speeches throughout the semester, students find themselves enjoying

the class.

Gauchat said that she wants her students to learn and become improved speakers, while also enjoying her class.

"I think that we should have fun, and I think that we should eat a lot," Gauchat said, chuckling. "I think that we should all get to know each other so that you can leave my class, have friends and be able to feel a special bond with the people in your class."

Gauchat's favorite aspect of teaching is building a bond with her students. She describes the interaction with students as a "good time." Gauchat takes pride in knowing that many of her students say that the class was their favorite class that semester.

Another commendable quality of Gauchat is that she truly cares for her students and is willing to help them in any way she can.

"She was more than just a professor to us—she cared about what we had going on in our lives and tried hard to work with us," said UNO sophomore Marisa Taylor. "She was always available if we needed help on something."

Not only will she answer any questions her students have about the public speaking concepts, but she'll also give up her time to help out her former students. In the spring of 2004, Gauchat was asked to write a recommendation for Taylor. Taylor was surprised to find that Gauchat enthusiastically granted the favor with no reservations about the time-consuming request.

What the future holds for Gauchat is anybody's guess; even she is uncertain. Currently, she is applying to four or five doctoral programs, finishing her thesis and looking for an internship. She says that she is just going to keep her options open as much as possible and see where life takes her.

Future UNO Public Speaking students beware: Michelle Gauchat will only be teaching the public speaking course for one more semester.

## Fitness tips to help avoid holiday pounds

THOMAS LAMAY  
STAFF WRITER

The Holiday season is a time to relax with friends, share gifts, and enjoy old-fashioned holiday treats and meals. More often than not, the holiday season brings endless opportunities to indulge ourselves, and engage in activities that would be considered foolish at any other time of the year.

Between attending parties, events, traveling and sometimes unbridled debauchery, keeping your fitness goals at peak form will tend to go by the way side. The holidays are that time of the year when carb-counting and regular trips to the gym go south for the winter.

While we may all give in to that extra piece of pie, or a late night egg-nog-induced fudge binge, remembering a few things about your health and fitness could save you from a few extra miles logged on the treadmill in January.

The American Heart Association recommends making physical activity a family-oriented activity.

A brisk walk or tossing around a football after dinner are good ideas that the whole family can enjoy. Planning activities ahead of time and including everybody are good ways to get off the couch.

If you have ever uttered the words "I think I need another belt notch" or "What's another piece of cake, I've already had four," you may need to reevaluate your holiday eating habits. Simply pacing yourself during a meal and drinking plenty

of fluids will help you resist the temptation to stuff yourself.

At the office, break-rooms are often bombarded with treats and snacks. Again, willpower and good judgement are key to avoiding temptation. Eating well-rounded meals at regular intervals throughout the day will keep you from a growling stomach at 3:00 p.m.

Before a holiday get together, it may be wise to eat a small meal before you get there. That way, you can set realistic calorie goals.

"Say to yourself 'I'm going to use my foods on calories I never see,'" suggested Dietician Amy Golden. "For instance, a special Christmas cookie or a sweet potato casserole."

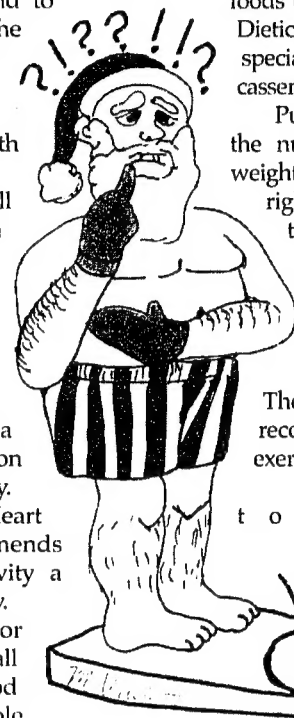
Putting off fitness goals is frequently the number one reason for a holiday weight gain. With New Year's resolutions right around the corner, and chilly temperatures outside, many tend to place aside any type of fitness goals until after the holidays. The levels of stress and anxiety rise during the holidays, and healthy living and fitness regimens suffer. The American Heart Association recommends 30 minutes or more exercise most days of the week.

On days you can't commit to a full workout, try doing 10 minutes of exercise. Skipping the escalator and taking the stairs at the mall is a good way to mix in some exercise while shopping. A minimum amount of exercise is always better

than zero.

Alcoholic beverages, especially during the holidays, are often packed with calories. Try to minimize the amount of calories you take in consuming alcoholic beverages.

Hopefully these tips will help you make some better choices during your holidays. Remember moderation is the key. Have a happy and safe holiday season.



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## Prevention is key in avoiding illness this season

Becky Boyer  
Staff writer

With upcoming finals and holiday stress levels, we stretch ourselves too thin.

Cold and Flu season is not a fun time. Phlegm, a stuffy nose, a cough and everything else that comes with it make common illnesses like the cold or the flu a hassle that no one wants to deal with.

The truth is that it is not inevitable that you will get sick. Illnesses are everywhere at this time of year and there are many ways to prevent illnesses.

According to Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services, students are most prone at this time of year to catching upper respiratory infections. She adds that people become infected when they do things like not washing their blankets enough, using a scarf to wipe a runny nose and reusing tissues instead of throwing them away.

Students can prevent these illnesses by taking the following steps: washing hands, using a tissue once and throwing it away and allowing yourself enough time to sleep.

"We need to give ourselves permission to get enough sleep," Adler said. She added that some students have come in sick so far this year, many with viral upper respiratory infections, that have to run their course of 10-14 days.

"I wash my hands every chance I get," said student Victoria Krupp. "I also received a flu shot and take vitamins. I also ask my boyfriend if he is sick before

he kisses me."

Krupp believes the worst part of being sick is when you try to sleep and your nose gets all stuffy. She is not too worried about being sick during the winter break because there are a variety of drugs out there that make being sick not so bad.

When asked if inclement weather



really affects a person's health, Adler said, "If you're somebody with irritated airways like allergies, asthma or if smoke bothers you, cold air can be like putting your hands in boiling water."

This year, the flu is especially in the news more because of the flu shot shortage. As of the week ending Nov. 20, 2004, the Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said

that Nebraska has sporadic influenza activity.

Because of the shortage of flu shots, Adler agrees with the fact that high risk people should get the flu shot but that it does not make a difference in healthy people. She also believes that many people are "worried well," which means that some people want the flu shot even though they never wanted one before.

While many people are not able to get the flu shot, she believes that this is a learning opportunity for people to get vaccinated for what is available, such as a tetanus shot.

Krupp said the flu shot shortage doesn't bother her much.

SI IS also has a few flu prevention kits left. This kit includes information on colds, coughs and sore throats. It also contains four single use clinical thermometers, a pocket pack of Kleenex, information about Kohl's Pharmacy and Homecare, three throat lozenges, a sample of Aleve and a sample size of Purell on a keychain.

Adler said that prevention is very important and that there are two big triggers to go see a doctor: if you have a severe headache and if you have a fever over 101 degrees.

Remember that the cold or flu may happen to you but that there are ways to protect yourself and many ways to lessen the symptoms.

So during this holiday season make sure to keep healthy!



# ENTERTAINMENT

Josh Bashara | Entertainment Editor

Page 9

entertainment@gateway.unomaha.edu | December 10, 2004

## CD reviews

COMPILED BY RAE LICARI  
STAFF WRITER

So let's say you've been asleep at the wheel this semester when it comes to new music. (You could say that about your schoolwork as well, but that doesn't really concern me—I'm talking about music here!) Let's also say you're about to embark on a shopping excursion for gifts for the winter holiday of your choice. The obvious problem here is that you are clueless about which new records are swill and which are swell. The solution? Why, the handy Gateway CD Review retrospective, of course! Let's take a look at some of the critical faves from the past semester:

**Abattoir Blues/The Lyre of Orpheus, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds (Anti):** Quite possibly the most sophisticated work from the band to date. The music itself is elegant, richly layered and seamlessly fluid. It is at once vibrantly fresh yet culling the best aspects of previous albums. (Rae Licari)

**Decent Days and Nights, The**

**Futureheads (Sire):** The Futureheads are wonderful, talented and fun like every Brit-pop-punk indie masterminds ought to be. You couldn't pry this CD from my cold dead hands. (Sommer Leinbach)

**Album of the Year, The Good Life (Saddle Creek):** Ego aside, this album lives up to its title. (Joel Hartung)



courtesy photo

**God Bless Your Black Heart, The Paper Chase (Kill Rock Stars):** If you ever wanted to know what insanity sounds like, put this record on. There's a mental breakdown happening, and you're invited. (Amanda Gorey)

**Stealing of a Nation, Radio 4 (Astralwerks):** Intensely energetic with synthetic lines,

catchy beats and outstanding percussion work, *Stealing* is every bit a party album. (Amanda Gorey)

**The Tipping Point, The Roots (Geffen Records):** With a groove heavy enough to move people mentally and spiritually, these musicians break down barriers and create a fusion worthy of praise. (Anjane Giles)

## Hip Hop Notes

COMMENTARY BY JULIAN IVEY  
STAFF WRITER

That's it. I have to draw the line somewhere and this is it. A logical person would think 50 Cent would be on the same page as Eminem and end his ongoing beef with The INC. A reasonable person would think 50 was busy buying Christmas gifts for G-Unit and had no time for such foolishness.

Unfortunately he's not.

50 Cent has recorded a track for his upcoming album dissing Fat Joe and Jadakiss, for collaborating with Ja Rule on the song, "New York." He can't be serious. This is the most ridiculous thing since the Dogg Pound.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for going off on someone if it's deserved. Sometimes you have to call people out. Set 'em straight, ya know? But when it's every album and all the time, it gets old.

Follow me down memory lane if you will:

The year is 1998 and rap is on its way back after the death of its two brightest stars. A surge of young talented emcees start crawling out of the cracks. One of those artists was a young man named 50

Cent. 50 had a small buzz from a hot track called "How to Rob" in which he rapped about robbing every famous rapper at the time.

A lot of artists didn't appreciate the song and a few dissed 50 on their next album, most notably Big Pun, Ghostface and Jay-Z. They felt he was using their name, which they established on their own to establish his name, kinda like what Puffy does.

At the time, I enjoyed the song and didn't think much of it. I don't mind that type of thing unless it becomes your typical mode of operation, like it was for the Dogg Pound.

Shortly after "How to Rob" came out, 50 got shot nine times and the song was released on the *Mad Rapper's* album. Fast forward four years and we've got 50 back and he's ready to take over the music industry once again.

What does he do? He starts dissing the biggest hit-maker (at the time) in rap, Ja Rule.

I understood this one, because we were all yearning for someone pull Ja's card. Bubble gum is good until the flavor goes away. 50 gets another pass from me.

Now I have to pull a Michael Moore, and urge you not to support this man. I will probably have the same lack of success as Moore did.

Let me explain why: 50 Cent's irresponsible actions are exploiting you and I, the hardworking hip-hop connoisseur.

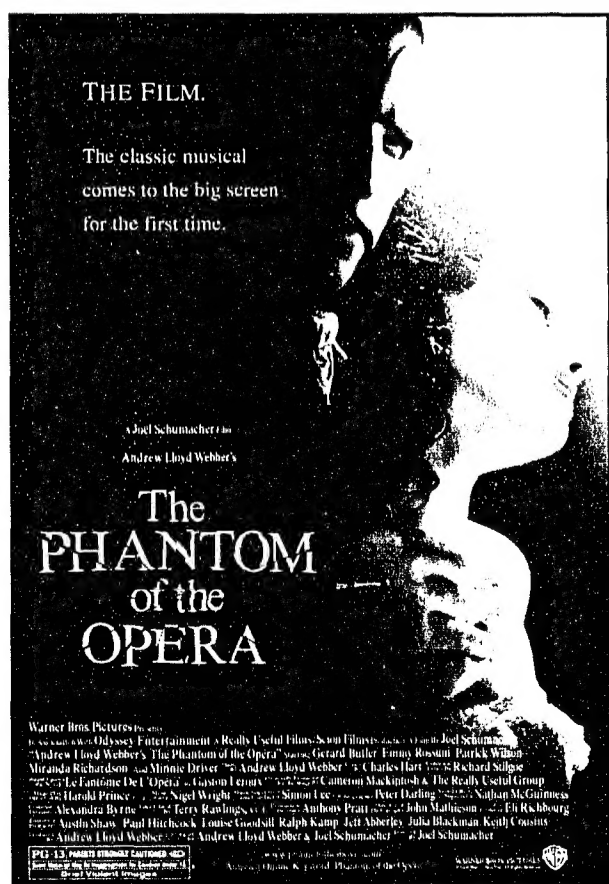
The dissing of Fat Joe and Jadakiss seemed strange. I got the Ja Rule thing, but it just didn't fit. So I thought about it

See *HIP HOP*: Page 13



courtesy photo

INVITE YOU AND GUEST TO A SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING



Stop by Gateway on campus and pick up a complimentary pass to attend a screening of *The Phantom of the Opera* on Monday, December 20 AMC Oakview 24, 7:00 PM.

This film is rated "PG-13" by the MPAA for brief violent images. Passes are available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. One pass per person. No purchase necessary.

IN THEATERS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND!

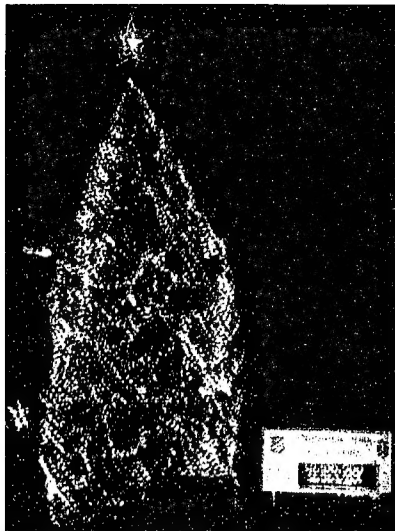
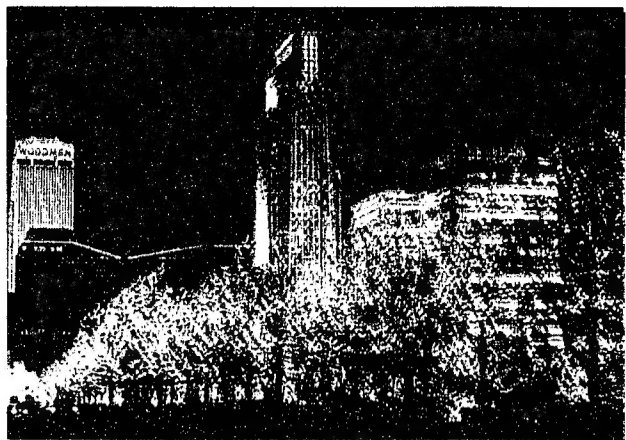
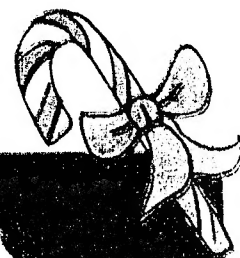
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# Gateway Year in Pictures



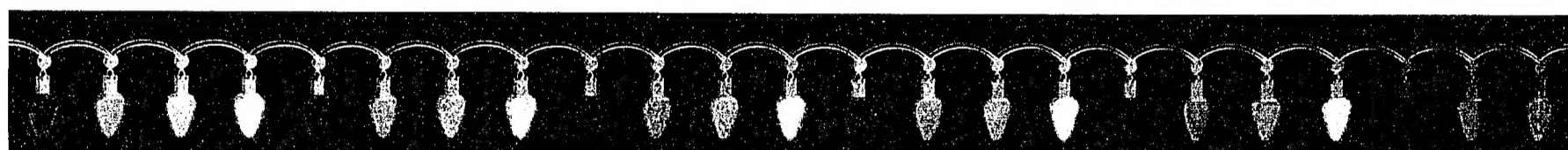
Top Left: The Holiday Lights Festival brightens up downtown Omaha in the Gene Leahy Mall. The display will be illuminated from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily through Jan. 9.

Top Middle: The Salvation Army Tree of Lights sparkles in front of Crossroads Mall along Dodge Street. The Salvation Army's goal is to raise \$2,100,000 this holiday season.

Right: Brian Schwabauer lifts weights in the HPER building Wednesday night.

Photos by Michelle Bishop  
Art by Molly Vavra





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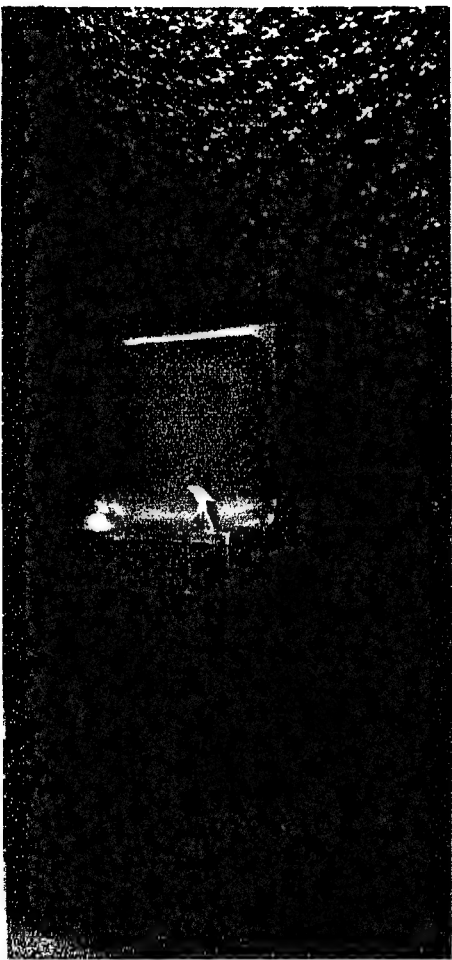
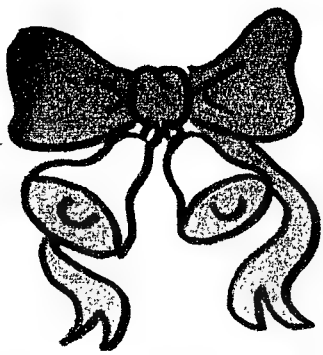
Happy Hour Sunday 7 p.m. - close

*Booking parties available.*

### HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!







Hundreds of pop bottles are installed around a drinking fountain in the Fine Arts Building.

Photo by Michelle Bishop  
Art by Molly Vavra

# Holiday Sale

**Buy One**

*Maverick / UNO Garment at regular price and receive the second of equal or lesser value*

*for* **Half Price!**

**Monday, Dec. 6 -  
Friday, Dec. 17**

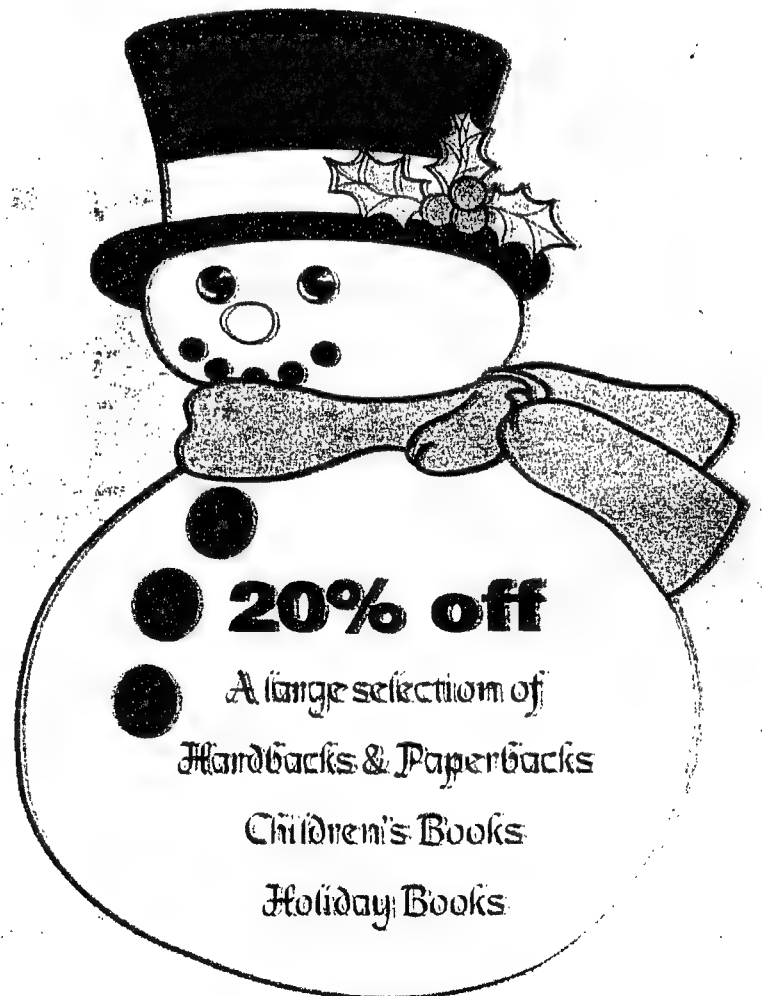
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We wish you  
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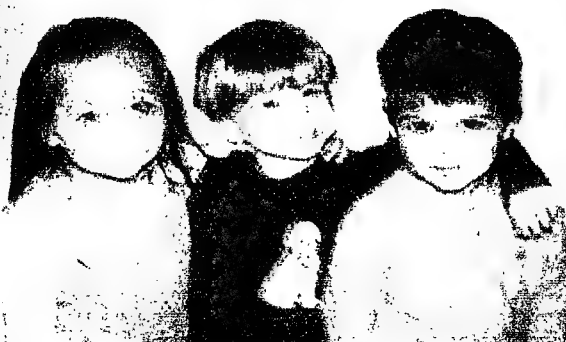
Children's Books

Holiday Books

7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



# Holiday movies: your guide to the shining and the dull

COMMENTARY BY SOMMER LEINBACH  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's embarrassing how many holiday movies Hollywood has churned out over the past few years.

Once upon a time, kids would anxiously watch *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* and parents eagerly watched the tear-jerking *It's a Wonderful Life*. These days there's a *Christmas Carol* remake every other year and new lows in holiday comedy. It's impossible to do a complete list of the best and the worst due to the overwhelming number of movies, so this list has been narrowed down to containing none of the tried-and-true animated favorites or black-and-white, morally-uplifting gems. In no particular order, I present my guide to holiday movies:

## Home Alone (1990)

When *Home Alone* originally debuted, it was an amusing movie. The McCallister parents leave on a family vacation but the smallest of all the children, Kevin (Macaulay Culkin) ends up forgotten and alone for Christmas. Two inept burglars pick Kevin's house to rob, but thanks to his imagination and ability to never lose his cool in the face of impending violence, the burglars' plans are squashed. The movie was actually enjoyable until the sequels began appearing year after year. It's hard to imagine that Culkin is the same kid who brought *Home Alone* to life, and years later starred in the morally-deficient *Party Monster*.

## Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Some people will argue that this is a Halloween movie and others will argue it's a Christmas movie. The debate only proves that Tim Burton is a genius at movie making and marketing. It makes the cut as one of the best Christmas and Halloween movies ever made. Dark and fun, it's a story about what happens when the hero of Halloween desires a change of scenery, takes over Christmas and ends up creating the scariest Christmas ever.

This cult classic appeals to those of us who religiously watched the early animation Christmas shows every year with great anticipation.

## Jingle All the Way (1996)

Prior to his gubernatorial antics, Arnold Schwarzenegger starred in this horrible holiday flick that left most people begging for a refund. Schwarzenegger plays a workaholic dad who misses his son's karate ceremony, which lands him in the doghouse as the worst dad in the whole world. The only way that his son's love can be won back is by acquiring a Turbo Man action figure for Christmas. Like

the Furbies during their magical Christmas debut, the Turbo Man is impossible to get. So let the mad commercialism games begin. Forget having yearly replay value, once is clearly too much as it is.

## Silent Night/Deadly Night (1984)

This movie was released at Christmas time in 1984, and while it is more horror than holiday, it was marketed to the holiday crowds. A young kid watches as his parents are brutally murdered on Christmas Eve by a man in a Santa Claus suit. He's mistreated and brainwashed while growing up in an orphanage. When he is old enough he gets a job working in a toy store as a Santa Claus. Next thing you know, he's a psychopath on a rampage as Santa. Cue the ferocious boycotting parents and horror stricken children who cry at the mention of Santa's naughty or nice list. If angry parents in the 1980s refuse to let their children see this movie, it has to be good.

## A Christmas Story (1984)

It has no moral, soul saving ending with tears and angelic music. It's not a remake of *A Christmas Carol* and it has no Halloween, scary-twist-to-tradition plot. Yet it has stood the test of time and remains one of the best holiday stories made. Who doesn't hear Ovaltine commercials and immediately think of Kevin and his

decoder ring? The characters are all original; the story told from a kid's point of view with the universal story of a Christmas present greatly desired. Instead of brassy commercialism like so many of the holiday movies, this one centers on icy flagpoles, terrible Christmas presents and overstuffed snowsuits—the best parts of Christmas.

## Bad Santa (2003)

Billy Bob Thornton plays a con man who poses as a Santa in department stores every year, casing the place and then robbing them blind. The current job is compromised when he befriends a kid and throws his entire career as a con man away for him—practically a heart-of-gold film. Except that the unrelenting foul language, gratuitous sex and numbing vulgarity ruins any chance of saving this dark, twisted holiday movie. If there is nothing redeemable about a character—even a villain—you will lose an audience and they will never care about what happens to him. Terry Zwigoff tried too hard to rope in the young and edgy. Bad Terry, no holiday replay value for you.

In the end, it doesn't matter what holiday movies you choose to watch, whether they are animated, edgy, violent, embarrassingly bad or uplifting. It is the company you choose to watch them with that matters the most. The right group of people, favorite drinks and delivered pizza can make even *Home Alone 4* one of the top five best holiday movies. However, it's really best to just avoid the *Home Alone* series altogether.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

COMPILED BY SOMMER LEINBACH  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

### Dec. 10

**O'Leavers, 1322 S. Saddle Creek Road**

\$5 cover, 10 p.m. show, 21+

\*Forty Twenty  
\*The Zykron Bees

**Josephine, 2201 Pierce St.**

\$5 cover, 8:30 p.m. show, 21+

\*OPHIL  
\*RC Dub

### Dec. 11

**Mick's Music & Bar, 5918 Maple St.**

\$3 cover, 9 p.m. show, 21+

\*Omaha Project  
\*Vern Kathol

**Sokol Underground, 2234 S. 13th St.**

\$8 cover, 9 p.m. show, all ages

\*VHS or BETA  
\*Statistics  
\*Race for Titles

**Ranch Bowl, 1600 S. 72nd St.**

\$5 cover, \$8 w/ CD, 8:30 p.m. show, all ages

\*Echo Bliss (CD release party)  
\*Endeavor  
\*Suspicious Fifth

### Dec. 14

**O'Leavers**

\$5 cover, 9:30 p.m. show, 21+

\*Make Believe  
\*Chin Up Chin Up  
\*The Stay Awake

### Dec. 15

**Sokol Underground**

\$5 cover, 8 p.m. show, all ages

\*Caenum  
\*Stigmata  
\*Pimpstick  
\*Social Outcast

**Ranch Bowl**

\$5 cover, 8 p.m. show, all ages

\*Calling All Cars  
\*White Collar Mercy  
\*Life's Last Breath  
\*Skyline Drive

### Dec. 16

**Ranch Bowl**

\$17 tickets, 9 p.m. show, all ages

\*Sister Hazel  
\*Lovetap

### Dec. 17

**Ranch Bowl**

\$12 tickets, 8:30 p.m. show, all ages

\*Most Precious Blood  
\*Remembering Never  
\*It Dies Today  
\*Dead to Fall

### Dec. 18

**49r, 4824 Dodge St.**

\$3 cover, 9 p.m. show, 21+

\*Goodbye Sunday  
\*The Omaha Project

**O'Leavers**

\$3 cover, 8:30 p.m. show, 21+

\*Shelter Belt  
\*Fizz Like a Flood  
\*Fearisalm

### Dec. 22

**Sokol Underground**

\$5 cover, 8 p.m. show, all ages

\*Microphone Jones  
\*Spinning Jenny  
\*Fail Over  
\*Vital Force

### Dec. 23

**Ranch Bowl**

\$7 cover, 9 p.m. show

\*The '89 Cubs  
\*Ted Stevens & Dan McCarthy  
\*Mal Madrigal  
\*Mr. 1986

## The Cheap Choice

COMPILED BY SOMMER LEINBACH  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

**Christmas comes to life at Stuhr Museum**

Stuhr Museum, 3133 W. U.S. Highway 34, in Grand Island, Neb. brings *Nebraska Christmas history* to life on Dec. 10 and 11, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eighteen historic structures are brought to life and costumed re-enactors bring visitors a real sense of late-1800s life. With interactive activities, crafts and lots of carol singing, this has become one of the favorite holiday traditions in Nebraska. Admission is \$5 for adults. For more information, call (308) 385-5316 or log on to [www.stuhrmuseum.org](http://www.stuhrmuseum.org).

**Mannheim Steamroller in concert Dec. 26 at Qwest Center**

Mannheim Steamroller's annual holiday concert on Dec. 26 promises not to let any of

its fans down! Chip Davis presents a beautiful composition of music at the Qwest Center, 455 N. 10th St., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$77.50, and can be purchased through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at the Qwest Center.

**Suessical the Musical at the Rose Theater through Dec. 19**

*Suessical the Musical* returns to Omaha at the Rose Theater, 2001 Farnam St., through Dec. 19. This enchanting show features many of the wonderful Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and the Whos of Whoville! A great way to celebrate the holidays, the musical incorporates the best of pop, swing and R&B. Admission is \$12 to \$16. For tickets, call 345-4849.

**Celebrate the holidays 19th century style at the General Crook House**

"Nineteenth Century Holidays" at the General Crook House, located at 30th and Fort streets, features more than 10 decorated trees all in the style typical to the year that the house was built: 1879. This exhibit runs through Dec. 31. Sunday features talks, entertainment, caroling around a 1958 piano, hot cider and cookies. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Call 455-9990 for more information.

## On The Beat

### From "heck no" to "techno"

COMMENTARY BY BRENT CRAMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

Electronic music is full of all sorts of genres other than "techno." The list includes the often-overplayed genre of house, dreamy and drug-influenced trance, the Asian-attracting genre of break beats, the "I'm pissed off at the world" sound of drum-and-bass, the list goes on. All of these genres would fall under the more appropriate termed category of "electronic music" rather than "techno."

Many of the genres are appealing to a mass and uneducated crowd. But unfortunately, there are also quite a few genres that only a small subculture of people can get into, namely ravers.

And after the rave culture in America had a crash-and-burn flight with pop-culture, there aren't too many people left standing around after the high of the altitude wore off. Most of the impressionable youth that came after the rave generation moved on to either further corrupt commercial hip-hop or replace the floppy Caffeine cargo pants with skin-tight emo jeans. But the rest became indebted to the music and stuck with by people becoming a DJ themselves or hanging out with a DJ.

Needless to say, since there isn't much of





# Cumbee's movie commentary

## Keeping you in-the-know on all things film



### That time of year again

ANDREW CUMBEE  
STAFF WRITER

I'm gonna admit it. I hate Christmas. I just do. I don't like spending the money, I don't like the over-crowded malls and I especially hate the movies.

Since it is the Christmas season, though, I felt like I had to do something to fit the holiday theme. I mean, I guess I could have done something about, like, film-gore or something, but really...is this the appropriate time?

Every Christmas movie is the same. It doesn't matter what it's supposedly about. They all have the same story every time. There are two basic plot lines:

No. 1: either someone feels bad, but then, because it's Christmas, something good happens and they feel better.

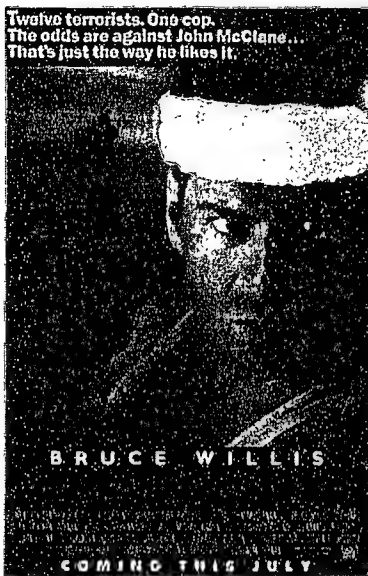
No. 2: someone goes around making other hopeless losers feel better. These simple themes are expanded to an hour and a half and only the characters and situations are altered. I just hate it.

They get too sappy for me. Christmas

pisses me off—I don't want to see some dude's life change for the better when I know that there is no way that would happen in real life. It's just too fake. Christmas is supposed to be a time of happiness and joy, and because of that, it has become a time where everyone gets depressed and thinks about how their lives could be better.

There are good ones out there. Even the most heartless bastard in the world gets his heart warmed by Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*. It's a great movie. *Elf* is a new one that works well with the simple theme. But overall? Eh...just tiring.

My favorite Christmas films have absolutely nothing to do with Christmas. The holiday season is just mentioned under



courtesy photo

a character's breath. I especially love the ones where Christmas gets all violent and stuff. That's what Christmas is supposed to be. *Die Hard*, *Lethal Weapon*...*Die Hard 2*, *Lethal Weapon 2*. Those are Christmas movies.

So for this edition of my commentary, I put together a list of my eight personal favorite Christmas films. Why eight...why not?

8. *The Godfather*—Okay, the greatest film of all time at the bottom of the list? Yes...I couldn't put it any higher because there's only like, one small section of the movie that takes place during Christmas. But it does have Christmas in it.

7. *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*—This is a James Bond movie that most people haven't seen because it stars George Lazenby. It is great, though, and takes place during Christmas. And a dude gets eaten by a snow blower in it.

6. *Christmas With the Kranks*—Just kidding.

5. *Die Hard*—"Now I have a machine gun. Ho Ho Ho," written in blood on a dead guy's chest. That's Christmas.

4. *Gremlins*—Christmas with monsters. Awesome.

3. *Bad Santa*—No other film sums up what people really think about Christmas better. For the first half, anyway, before he almost becomes Good Santa.

2. *Batman Returns*—The Penguin's parents throw him away. Hilarious.

1. *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*—When Santa gets kidnapped to deliver presents to children on Mars, he must battle his way back to Earth by bringing fun and Christmas cheer to the aliens. This is a real movie, by the way.

So there's my list. You can watch those now meaningless Christmas "classics." I'll stick with this bunch. Enjoy your break. I'll be back next semester.

## WISH YOU WERE THERE

Sights and Sounds Festival

REVIEW BY ERIKA BERG  
STAFF WRITER

The smell of a Scandinavian smorgasbord hangs heavily in the air at Dana College. Students reminisce of the abundant food, activities and music that consumed Blair on Dec. 4 and 5, and can't wait for the holiday season next year. So what exactly are these students and community members dreaming about for next year? It's not visions of sugar plum fairies, but the annual Sights and Sounds Festival.

Dana College has introduced the holiday season with this Christmas festival for decades. The festival is based on the traditions of Scandinavia, and there are many activities to look forward to in this two-day event.

The weekend kicks off with a matinee play, which was *Christmas in a Time of War*, and was followed by a rousing performance by the Dana College Chorale and Concert Band in the Gardner-Hawks Center.

The fun continued on Sunday at 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. The smorgasbord, which featured authentic Scandinavian cuisine, was served continuously from 11 a.m. to 3

p.m. and again at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Other events included were a Viking Encampment and demonstrations, folk dancers, storytelling and guest high schools were invited to provide live entertainment throughout the weekend.

This would be a great place to bring a date or group of friends. It would be a big change from the typical Omaha date of dinner and a movie. What better way to get into the "holiday spirit" then to support our neighboring town, Blair, and enjoy their annual festivities?

This would also be a fabulous way to earn brownie points with the parents if you are of Scandinavian heritage like I am. (Can we say extra gifts at Christmas?)

The cost is even less than a dinner and movie, or a night at the bar. You would need to purchase smorgasbord tickets, which are \$15.50 for adults and \$7 for children. And also the purchase of a Sights and Sounds button for \$5 grants entry to all events Saturday and Sunday (except the Smorgasbord).

If you want information for next year, you can call the Dana College Public Relations office at (402) 426-7216.

From *Hip Hop*: Page 9

and realized that Joe and Kiss had the two biggest hits of the summer and fall with "Lean Back" and "Why." Right now the hottest song out is "New York."

This is a promotional stunt, people. Don't let this thug fool you! Here is another case of an artist trying to build up their buzz.

Shame on you, Mr. Cent. Shame on you.

As a side note, the three albums that responded to 50's "How to Rob" diss were really good albums: *Yeez Baby* (Big Pun), *Supreme Clientele* (Ghostface) and *Vol. 3...Life and Times of S. Carter* (Jay-Z).

•Lately, Nas has been refusing fan requests to perform the song, "Ether," in which Nas disses Jay-Z, simply telling fans

that he's got love for Jay-Z. Interesting....

•All the members of D12 are working on solo albums except Kon Artis and Kuniva, who are making an album together.

•When I told you about Jay-Z's collaboration albums I forgot to mention the biggest one, *The Grey Album*. It was made by Danger Mouse and is a combination of the Beatles' *White Album* and Jay's *Black Album*. You gotta love underground hip-hop music.

I'm strong to the finish 'cause I eats me spinach...I'm sorry...I can never figure out how to end these things. Have a happy holiday and good luck with any finals you have. I'm out.

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# Discover a new wave of portable gaming in 2005

ANDREW CUMBEE  
STAFF WRITER

The reign of GameBoy is over. After 15 years of Nintendo dominating the portable game world, the GameBoy is officially dead. New games will be made for a while longer, but the company will soon be phasing out the system.

With the Advance and SP models, GameBoy has been as popular as it ever was, but after Sony decided to jump into the game, Nintendo figured it was time to also make a change.

Just last week, Nintendo released what they hope will be the future in its new DS (short for dual-screen) gaming device in Japan and America. Sony's PlayStation Portable (the PSP) comes out this week in Japan, with a later release in the United States. No official date has been set, but American gamers can expect the PSP sometime around the second quarter of 2005.

These new systems are completely different from each other, as would be expected from the video game industry giants behind them. Both feature one very special feature among many other innovations.

Nintendo's DS features two screens. The main screen does the usual: showing the action of the game. The second is a touch panel that has many features ranging from viewing game maps to actually controlling the characters in the game.

The Sony PSP's main draw basically comes down to how much the system can do. Before PSP, portable games had always looked like Super Nintendo or Sega Genesis (back from the 16-bit generation) games, at best. The games for PSP look just like the stuff from PlayStation 2, X-Box, and GameCube.

Which one you pick up, if either, is going to be up to player preference. There

are great things about both systems, but in the end it will come down to the games. Let's break it down a little further on what you will need to know in making a choice and what you can expect in the future from both systems:

## Nintendo DS

The DS comes from Nintendo, so gamers can guess what to expect as far as games go. Nintendo has been notorious for its lack of third-party support. The other game company giants, like Konami, Capcom, Namco and Sega all have a few games lined up for DS, but compared to PSP, there's almost nothing there. Of course, this hasn't always been a problem for Nintendo, because of their hardcore fan base. Nintendo just does not make bad games—they are one of the best game-makers in the business.

DS has provided some great interaction for its players with the touch panel. You can write messages with a stylus and send them to other DS owners. The system also allows wireless connectivity with others. You can play multi-player games with friends and (for the first time ever) only one person needs the actual game cartridge. And, yes, Nintendo is still using the cartridges.

There are a few bad things about the system. Because you'll be using the touch panel so much, you will be holding the system with one hand, most times. This will be awkward since the system is so bulky and oddly shaped. Then of course, the lack of third-party support may develop into a problem, too, when Sony gets all of the other non-Nintendo produced games.

## Sony PSP

As mentioned, the PSP owners can expect a ton of games from other companies besides Sony. Just like the PlayStation 2, PSP will have great games from all third-party supporters and, with that, a ton of

exclusives. On top of that, also expect some Sony greats, like *Gran Turismo 4 Portable*.

The PSP's design is nearly perfect. The system is compact and looks like a stretched out version of the original GameBoy Advance. The screen in the middle is huge when looking at past systems. The difference between it and the DS main screen is like Mario pre- and post-mushroom (you know...like back when he would grow...). It's set up like the PS2 Dual Shock controller. Basically, the same buttons are in the same places, and it even features a joy-stick.

The system also features memory sticks like a PDA. It is also the first portable to use CDs over cartridges and the first system to ever use the UMD disc. The UMD is roughly half the size of a regular size CD and a little thicker. UMD's can hold up to ten times the information that a DVD uses.

Now, think about that. DVD is what PS2 games are made on. PSP also stores music and plays MP3s. Also expect movies to start being made on UMD, and playable in the PSP, including Square's film sequel to Final Fantasy VII.

As with DS, there are a few flaws. The battery life on PSP won't even make it through a movie, for one. Also, early reports have suggested that the joy-stick is far too touchy, making it near impossible to control game characters. It is also in an awkward spot for the gamer.

There's a lot to look forward to in the portable gaming world in 2005. PSP and DS will both assuredly be good investments. It will really be up to you which system you think you will prefer.

Nintendo DS is available now for around \$150, with games at about \$30. The Sony PSP is selling for the equivalent of \$185 in Japan, with game price undisclosed at this time (but expected anywhere from \$30 to \$50 each).

Special thanks to *Electronic Gaming Monthly* and *GameSpot.com* for the information found in this article.

From *ON THE BEAT*: Page 12

a market in Omaha for electronic music, the DJs and their affiliates have a hard time finding venues to display their craft. And even when a venue is forged, it's even more difficult to sustain a crowd when you consider that half of the people seriously into the music are DJs themselves.

Well, a solution has been developed.

What does every DJ want? Bookings! So if a DJ can get booked at an ongoing event, they are more likely to support it. Thus is born the concept of the open deck night. The basic idea is to book any DJ, regardless of their style and experience, on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Omaha has had a long history of open deck nights. Starting off at the Getaway Lounge, then to Roxbury and leaving off at Shea Riley's. All the open deck nights at these spots eventually met their demise for some reason or another. If it wasn't because of dysfunctional management, it was because of a slowly decreasing crowd.

But no more dive bars attached to mini-malls for Omaha's electronic DJs! Every Thursday night Club Nico is now hosting

From *CONCERTS*: Page 12

Dec. 25

Ranch Bowl

\$8 cover, 8:30 p.m. show, all ages

\*Grasshopper Takeover

\*Haven 21

Dec. 26

Sokol Underground

\$10 tickets, 8 p.m. show, all ages

\*Swizzle Free

\*Trippin' Default

\*Liquidstatic

## PORTABLE GAMING

So both systems are great and will more than likely be worth the money. It is really going to come down to the games, however. Here's a look at a few of the most hotly anticipated games on both systems.

### Nintendo DS

• *Super Mario 64 DS*—Yep, the most anticipated DS game is a classic from a few years ago. This is actually a remake, allowing you to play as Yoshi, Wario or Luigi, in addition to Mario. The game is the same, but features all new missions, new moves and different gameplay.

• *WarioWare Inc. DS*—This is the sequel to the surprise GameBoy hit featuring all new mini-games. It's sure to be weird and awesome.

• *Metroid Prime Hunters*—This is Metroid as a first person shooter. Should be interesting.

—Those are the top three that should be available either now or very soon. Also look for other franchise games in 2005: *Mario Kart*, *Animal Crossing*, *Bomberman*, *Castlevania*, *Final Fantasy*, and *Pokemon*.

### Sony PSP

• *Metal Gear Acid*—This is a new take on the Metal Gear games. It is basically a card-based strategy game. No one knows how this is going to work, but it is Metal Gear, so it can't be bad.

• *Ridge Racer PSP*—Ridge Racer was one of the games that made the original PlayStation a success. There is also a DS version of this, but it is obvious that the PSP version is the one to have. When looking at screenshots side by side, the DS version looks like an Atari 2600 game, whereas PSP's looks like real life.

• *Gran Turismo 4 Portable*—Not much is known about this. It may be the same as the PS2 version, or may have other features. Either way, it's the portable version of Gran Turismo.

—Other games to look forward to: *Twisted Metal World Tour*, *Wipeout Pure*, *Symphon Filter*, *Logan's Shadow*, *NHL Face Off 2005* and *NFL and NBA Street*.

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the new open deck night under the guise of "Underground Collective."

With only a \$5 cover charge, one will find a whole circus of entertainment. For those 21 or older, you can enjoy \$2 premium wells, domestic bottles and a whole slew of hard drinks. There are video graphics by VI Kidd and hip-hop playing courtesy of Dr. Pulse and Vic Nasty in the Martini Lounge. There are also various guest DJs banging out the hard sounds on the main floor. Oh, and let's not forget hired female dancers to break the ice (or break your heart).

According to Nico's Web site, the philosophy of the Underground Collective is to view the DJ as an artist, and not the butt-end entertainment of preprogrammed list of songs. They are allowing the music format to be entirely up to the DJ, which means one will hear anything from house, techno, breaks, electro, trance or drum-and-bass.

And watch out for your ear drums: there's no restriction on the volume level.

Jan. 8

Sokol Auditorium

\$10 tickets, 8 p.m. show

\*Thunk Junkceez

\*Buck Bowen

Jan. 14

Sokol Auditorium

Sold out (unless you buy a ticket from a scalper!)

8 p.m. show, all ages

\*Bright Eyes

\*Coco Rosie

\*Tilly and the Wall



# SPORTS

Angie Peck | Sports Editor

Page 11

sports@gateway.unomaha.edu December 10, 2004

## Curtis, Mavericks go for perfection with season win number eight

J. PARKER ADAIR  
NEWS EDITOR

A perfect 10 is difficult to attain, but on Tuesday night, Ryan Curtis recorded a perfect nine in helping the men's basketball team to a perfect eight.

UNO beat Wayne State (Neb.) 81-73 thanks in part to Curtis' 23 points. Curtis was a perfect 9-for-9 from the floor, and for symmetry, he added nine rebounds and went 5-5 from the free-throw line. The No. 21 Mavericks are a perfect 8-for-8 in Division II this season. The team's one blemish on an 8-1 season came to Division I Colorado State.

Abdul Mills was imperfect but important by recording 25 points in his second start of the season. Mills was 5-9 from the field including 4-7 from the three-point arc. The senior also shot 11-18 from the free-throw line.

Mills' first start of the season yielded only one point. This was a welcome turnaround.

"The first time he started was new for him and it was in a tough game," Head Basketball Coach Kevin McKenna said. "(Tuesday) night he got comfortable."

The Mavericks built up an early lead, pushing it out to five points before Wayne State came back to trade leads for a while. UNO was down 23-10 in the middle of the opening half, but the Mavs came back with the help of Curtis' perfect stretch, hitting three of his seven first-half field goals. They took a 40-33 lead into the locker room.

"Ryan's a guy that if he has a lot of confidence, he can play really well," McKenna said. "If things go well, he builds off it. He got into one of those grooves."

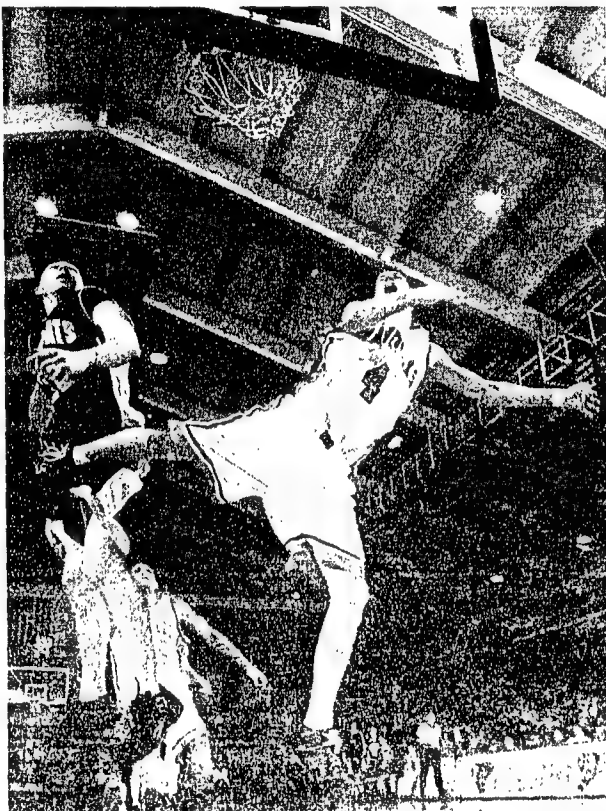
The second half became Mills' time as he drilled a three less than three minutes into the frame, giving UNO its first double-digit lead. Mills would score 11 more points in the half.

A Denny Johnson three gave UNO a 16-point lead, its largest at 59-43. The Wildcats were able to chip the lead to 65-59, but Curtis

hit a layup and converted the three-point play while Mills hit on 6-of-8 free throws to maintain the lead. Jamaal Byers and Andre Tarpley were each a perfect 2-2 in the final 33 seconds to give UNO the win.

Over the break, UNO will play against Tarleton – a team ranked first all of last year – and No. 2 Rollins in Las Vegas Dec. 18 and 19. On Dec. 28 and 29, the Mavs travel to Brookings for the South Dakota State Classic against Wayne State (Mich.) and a rematch of •Wayne State (Neb.).

Before they get to that point, UNO



Wayne State's Dush Smith watches UNO's Curtis Kapch sink a shot.

plays tomorrow night at 6 p.m. against a 5-1 Missouri Western team. The Mavericks will host that game as well as three more (Doane-Dec. 31, Augustana-Jan. 6 and North Dakota-Jan. 8). The three home games will be a welcome break for UNO as they play in the Sapp Fieldhouse, a place where, this year, they are perfect.

## Northern Michigan blows by Mavericks

ANGIE PECK  
SPORTS EDITOR

Northern Michigan extended its at home unbeaten streak last weekend after sweeping the Mavericks in a two-game series.

The Wildcats lead early and did not trail the Mavericks as any point in the two games. Friday night, the Wildcats started fast by picking up two goals in the first period.

The first was a shorthanded goal by Kevin Gardner and the second an even-strength goal by Mike Santorelli.

The Mavericks attempted a comeback, picking up a goal in both the second and third periods. Brandon Scero knocked in a Scott Parse rebound at 10:15 in the second period and Bill Thomas pushed the puck past Wildcat goalie Tuomas Tarkki after an offensive zone face-off four minutes into the final stanza.

On the night, the Mavericks were 0-for-8 on the power play, and killed off all five of NMU's man-advantage opportunities. The team also outshot Northern Michigan 25-24 in the loss.

On Saturday night, the Mavericks saw a different line up for the first 39 seconds.

Freshman goalie Eric Aarnio made his first collegiate start but allowed two goals in the first 39 seconds. Chris Holt replaced Aarnio in goal; it was the first game Holt did not start this season.

A UNO turnover around the blue line resulted in a Santorelli goal 24 seconds into the game. Fifteen seconds later, Tim Hartung beat Aarnio with a wrist shot in the slot.

In the second period, Northern Michigan extended its lead to 4-0 on goals by Matt Ciancio and Darin Olver.

At 3:37 of the third period, the Mavericks finally got on the board. Scott Parse scored on a power play goal but Santorelli responded with his second goal of the night 10:47 into the stanza, giving NMU the 5-1 lead.

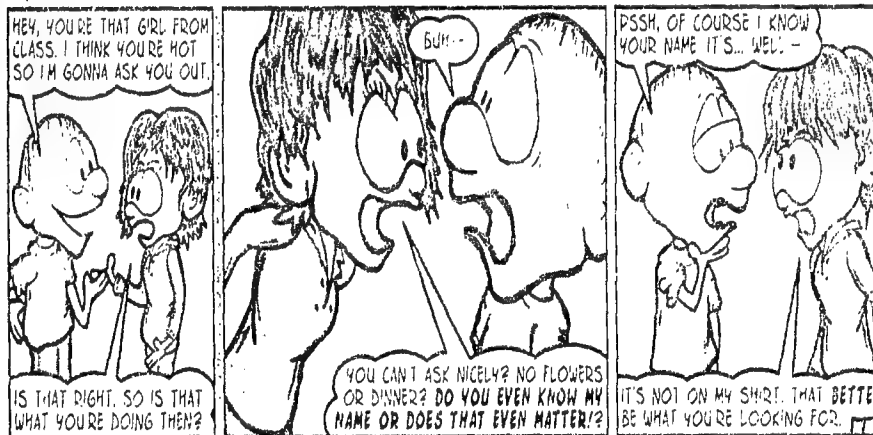
UNO again staged a small rally with goals by Alex Nikiforuk and Dan Hacker late in the third, giving the Mavericks 5-3 score with 3:58 remaining.

The rally ended when Andrew Contois scored an empty netter with 47 seconds left in the game.

UNO (7-6-1, 5-6-1 CCHA) returns home to host Lake Superior State on Saturday. The puck drops at 7:05.

PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE [WWW.MRBILLY.COM](http://WWW.MRBILLY.COM)



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# Thies' second half douses Flames, Mavericks get fifth win

J. PARKER ADAIR  
NEWS EDITOR

This season has been about catching fire for the UNO women's basketball team. It took Karen Thies to catch fire in the second half Tuesday night to hold off a hot-shooting comeback of the College of St. Mary Flames.

Thies scored 13 second-half points, including three key three-pointers. Ten of those points came in the final 7:06, which helped keep St. Mary at bay.

UNO took an early lead in the game, going up 13-2 less than seven minutes in. Sarah Shaber sparked the Flames with a three-pointer that began an 11-2 run. St. Mary built a six-point lead with just less than three minutes in the half, but that's when Thies' contribution began to be felt.

She assisted Chelsea Malone to cut the lead to four; her steal was turned into a Sarah Austin layup, and an assist to J.J. Smith in the final 30 seconds and tied the score going into halftime.

While UNO has had a difficult time in the first half lately, they have improved greatly in the final 20 minutes of games.

In the first 50 seconds of the half, UNO had three steals leading to five points. UNO took a lead that would not be relinquished. Less than one minute of play was all the Mavericks needed to steal the game.

"Every little play is pivotal," said Head

Coach Patty Patton Shearer while commenting on the depth of her team. "If (we) get off the bench and don't get on it defensively; they hit a three and that changes the game. We never want a chink in our armor."

The Mavericks got on it defensively and Thies' three was the dagger that pierced the St. Mary armor. From there, UNO was able to build a 10-point lead with less than 10 minutes remaining. The Mavs held a nine-point lead as late as 3:41 before the shooting touch left them. In that span, UNO shot 1-for-6 from the field and 1-2 from the free throw line. Smith made a layup at 2:08; it was the lone Mav bucket. In the final 3:06, the Flames missed one of nine shots, including 7-8 on free throws.

Lindsey Peterson went to the line for UNO with three seconds left and a two-point lead. She made the front end of the one-and-one before she missed the back end. St. Mary, however, had no timeouts and could not get a shot off.

Free throw woes hit UNO again, shooting only 8-13.

"We have to do a better job shooting free throws," Patton Shearer said. "We have to finish."

If the free throws come, so will more consistency to the Maverick game.

"It's just about sustaining the intensity for 40 minutes," she added.

That will be important over the break.

Saturday, UNO hosts Northwest Missouri State at 2 p.m. They host Colorado State Pueblo Monday, Dec. 13 and Dordt Wednesday, Dec. 15, giving one day breaks between. They then host Mount Mercy on Dec. 20, before a small break. UNO is perfect at home.

"As a player, you love it, getting on the floor competing all the time," Patton Shearer said. "As a coach, you always feel time you need to tinker."

UNO returns to action Dec. 29 and 30 in Denver for the Metro State tournament. They play Metro State and Colorado Mines respectively.

One thing for the team to be proud of is its improvement. At this point last year, UNO had two wins. They beat St. Mary on Dec. 29 for the third and didn't get number five until after Valentine's Day.

"We always have room for improvement," Patton Shearer said. "We always need to ask



Chris Machian

Chelsie Grosbie keeps an eye on CSM's Ashley Austin.

ourselves, 'did I get better today? Did I learn something?'"

## All I want for Christmas is a new A.D. - that wish has been granted

For the past two weeks, people have been asking me what I wanted for Christmas. After being bombarded with the 17 radio stations playing Christmas-only music since August, the lyrics became interspersed with all the time I spend covering Maverick sports.

Instead of "Jingle Bells" I kept thinking about the football team's Kearney rivalry, singing "Victory Bells."

"The Holly and the Ivy" became a women's basketball song about LaCheryl Prince's nickname and one of her assistant coaches: "The Lolly and the Maurice Ivy."

The wrestling team is hoping to earn its third national championship under Head Coach Mike Denney and hear the song, "I saw three 'ships come sailing in."

Then of course, the one song every team loves: "No L's."

Still, there was one song that kept popping into my head while switching back and forth between sports talk and Christmas rock. It was the answer to my holiday wish list. After Bob Danenhauer resigned as athletics director Oct. 1, I've been singing, "All I want for Christmas is a new A.D."

I originally wrote this column begging Santa to grant my biggest Christmas wish this year. In a matter of hours, the rotund Kringle delivered. Rather than a gift being under a tree, the gift turned out to be as big as a tree. Vertically-gifted David Herbster was

named the new director of intercollegiate athletics, and the Virginia Tech alumnus has answered the question, "Is there a Santa Claus?"

Yes, Virginia (Tech), there is a Santa Claus.

Now that I know that there is a Saint Nick, and he clearly is a Maverick fan, I thought I would see what else he might deliver this year.

We all come up with the lists of things we want, things we need, things we just gotta have.

But what else could I possibly want?

This is a season of giving, but I'm not above being selfish. I did just help out an entire athletic department.

Tomorrow night on FOX, "The Journalist Who Saved Christmas."

Perhaps I could ask for a new lung to replace the one destroyed by the onslaught of cigarette smoke I have had to walk through en route to class this week. Or maybe another shuttle bus since I have had to wait an extra 20 minutes now that students have decided to show up for the final week of class.

I could remember the reason for the season and feed the hungry wrestlers, give shelter to the homeless baseball team or clothe the semi-

### Parker Adair



Can't Lose

naked by purchasing full-length mink coats for the swim team. Those outfits don't look too warm in sub-zero conditions.

Maybe I could ask Santa for something to help people on a national level. For the San Francisco 49ers to get peace of mind by finally being on the other side of National Football League dominance. For National Hockey League players and owners to come together in harmony. Perhaps I could get a special "egg nog" for Major League Baseball players. I know it may be difficult, but I would appreciate if the jolly one would give National Basketball Association players some fundamental skills. If not, at least have legendary UCLA coach, John Wooden, administrate the pre-draft camp.

As Wooden said, "It's impossible to help someone else, without also helping yourself."

Or maybe I could sit on the bearded guy's lap and ask for professional athletes to realize how lucky they are to be in that draft on ESPN.

Instead of crying that they are not the first pick, I hope they can be happy that they don't live in an era when being taken in the draft had a somber tone.

This holiday season, I don't want to watch

sports on TV. Instead of watching college kids my age compete away from home between Dec. 24 and Jan. 1, I want them to be able to take some time off and actually spend more than a weekend with their families. They don't get paid seven figures to play and, with school, don't have an off season.

I also want other kids my age to go home and spend time with their families. Let basketball players get a break from taking shots, and give our military a break from being shot at. Give quarterbacks time off from throwing bombs and soldiers time off from avoiding them. This holiday season, don't grant the Hail Mary that beats the spread, but the one asked from a warrior's foreign bed.

I know I ask for a lot this year. Maybe I should focus on my small section of the world to improve. Perhaps I should focus on Omaha, on our campus.

It is difficult to replace a legend, but I hope Herbster has as much passion, love and genuine care for the Maverick family as Mr. Danenhauer.

All I wanted for Christmas was a new A.D. and he has arrived.

Santa, I know you're out there. Thank you.

But do you think you could get me that red Durango I wanted? Oh, yeah, don't forget that other stuff too.

## Sports events over winter break

COMPILED BY ANGIE PECK SPORTS EDITOR		(home), Sapp Fieldhouse		Men's Basketball		Wayne State (Mich., SDSU Classic)		Massachusetts		(home)	
		Northwest Missouri		(away)		6:00 p.m.		6:05 p.m.		Augustana	
		2:00 p.m.		Tarleton State (High Desert Classic)						8:00 p.m.	
<b>Dec. 10</b>						<b>Dec. 29</b>		<b>Women's Basketball</b>		<b>Jan. 7</b>	
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>		<b>Wrestling (away)</b>		<b>Dec. 19</b>		<b>Hockey (away)</b>		(away)		<b>Hockey (home)</b>	
(away)		University of Nebraska-		6:45 p.m.		Boston University		Colorado Mines		Northern Michigan	
South Dakota		Kearney		(away)		6:05 p.m.		2 p.m.		7:05 p.m.	
6 p.m.		9:30 a.m.		<b>Men's Basketball</b>				<b>Dec. 31</b>		<b>Track (away)</b>	
				Rollins (High Desert		<b>Men's Basketball</b>		<b>Men's Basketball</b>		Kansas State Invitational	
<b>Dec. 11</b>		<b>Dec. 13</b>		Classic)		(away), Brookings, SD		(home)		4:00 p.m.	
<b>Hockey (home), Qwest</b>		<b>Women's Basketball</b>		4:30 p.m.		Wayne State (Neb., SDSU Classic)		Doane		<b>Jan. 8</b>	
Center Omaha, 455 N. 10 <sup>th</sup>		(home)		<b>Dec. 20</b>		6:00 p.m.		1:00 p.m.		<b>Hockey (home)</b>	
St.		Colorado State-Pueblo		<b>Women's Basketball</b>		<b>Women's Basketball</b>		<b>Jan. 3</b>		Northern Michigan	
Lake Superior State		7:00 p.m.		(home)		(away)		(home)		7:05 p.m.	
7:05 p.m.		<b>Dec. 15</b>		Mount Mercy		Metro State-Denver		Peru State		<b>Men's Basketball</b>	
<b>Men's Basketball</b>		<b>Women's Basketball</b>		7:00 p.m.		4 p.m.		6:00 p.m.		(home)	
(home), Sapp Fieldhouse		(home)		<b>Dec. 28</b>		<b>Dec. 30</b>		<b>Jan. 6</b>		North Dakota	
Missouri Western		Dordt		(away), Brookings, SD		<b>Hockey (away)</b>		<b>Men's Basketball</b>		8:00 p.m.	
4:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m.									
<b>Women's Basketball</b>		<b>Dec. 18</b>									



## 2004 wrap up: A heck of a year

And with that, we draw this semester to a close. Man, 2004 has been one heck of a year with so many things happening here and around the United States. Because this is the last article for this semester, (I will return next semester!) I've decided to make this a super-sized article. Remember, we've got an entire year to review. But, since I don't get that much space, I will just point out a few important events of the year.

Of course, we must talk about the election. The polls made it look like a roller-coaster ride-- everybody went back to Vietnam (just to see who did what and when), there was more mud than a pigsty, and even worse, Michael Moore made another "documentary."

There were books published about two guys wanting to kill President Bush, there was even a play on Broadway titled *I Want to Kill the President* (They also had advertising bumper stickers). And, not to mention the College Democrats here at UNO, there were "F\*\*\* Bush" buttons being sold (and the subsequent "Buck Fush" buttons), all of which came to a climactic end on Election Day, when George W. Bush won not only the popular vote, but also the Electoral College. (Despite what my critics say.) But this entire election, the way I see it, was nothing more than a "Hate Bush fest."

Even several prominent faces in Hollywood came out against Bush. But there's a slight problem; this isn't going to stop. As a matter of fact, Michael Moore is going to release a sequel to *Fahrenheit 9/11* because "51 percent of the nation was uninformed." Listen, Mikey, 51 million Americans didn't buy into your (and the rest of the left's) hate, what makes you so sure this new film will have any effect? There's more to say, but we must press on.

And Florida was worried about the election. Unfortunately, it had to deal with Bonnie, Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne. No, they're not some of the contestants on *Fear Factor: Meet Your New Teammate Edition*, those are what the National Hurricane Center labeled the five hurricanes that slammed into the Sunshine State. Many of these five were powerful level three hurricanes, with a wind speed between 110-130mph. They savagely manhandled Florida, Cuba and just about everyone around the Gulf of Mexico. Damage from these brutes (Either Ivan or Jeanne in particular) was supposed to rival Hurricane Andrew, who struck Florida in 1995. However, even after these four storms, which packed more wind than a factory of whoopee-cushions, Florida managed to have a problem-free election, giving the "deciding state" title to Ohio. About time, though. Those folks deserved a break.

Olympics, what Olympics? Does anybody remember the Olympics? I didn't even realize they were on this year. My bad.

And then, we have a few major court cases to talk about. Let me just take a look through the court records... Hmm, I have to answer that subpoena soon... Ah, here we go. We've got the people of

### As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

California v. Scott Peterson, and unknown v. Kobe Bryant. Bryant's criminal case has been dismissed, and now there's the civil suit. Well, at least he's in court, not on the courts, what with that brawl in Detroit. However, fate wasn't as kind to Scott Peterson. With a unanimous guilty verdict on both the first-degree murder charge for his wife and second-degree murder charge for his unborn son, Scott's life now hangs in the balance. The jury will reconvene for the penalty phase, since the Supreme Court (also this year) ruled that only a jury can decide if someone convicted of first-degree murder can be executed. Sorry to say this, Scott, but that stoic face you had during the verdict--according to in-court reports from Greta Van Susteren--tells me the jury will go for the needle.

Gay marriage became a major issue this year due in part to the rogue mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom. Using power that was outside the law, he gave out marriage licenses to over 4,000 gay and lesbian couples by altering the marriage license applications from "bride/groom" to "applicant 1/applicant 2." And with that, there became a mass pilgrimage of gay and lesbian couples to San Francisco in order to get one of these precious licenses. However, Newsom was found by a 5-2 ruling to have overstepped his bounds, and 3,995 marriage licenses were instantly nullified. You know, I'm actually neutral regarding this whole gay marriage thing, I really shouldn't impose my beliefs on others. But I'm sorry, I don't care how many couples or families this will destroy, they were illegally obtained. End of conversation.

But there have been a few events that have happened around here that have made things fun. One such thing was the recent Student Government elections. Now, my readers probably know my take on the whole thing, but this a summary, not an opinion. Well, 1,152 students showed up to cast their ballots and the results favored the Vince Dreiling/Jessica Vincik ticket. But since nobody reached the 50 percent +1 vote, back we went to the polls. But in a surprising move, more people turned out to vote in the run-off election than in the primary election. To quote Keanu Reeves, "Whoa."

This time, the Dreiling/Vincik ticket broke the 50 percent +1 vote barrier, getting 53 percent of the vote over their opponents, the Elizabeth Kraemer/Lamarr Womble ticket, which only managed to get 46 percent of the vote. And just when we thought it was over... it wasn't. Three grievances were filed by the Kraemer/Womble campaign, which would be upheld by the Student Election Commission, giving the elections to Kraemer and Womble.

Wow, lately, I've voted for two presidents, (national and student) and both have won (one without grievances, though). I must be on a hot streak.

BZZAP! Oh no, there goes my iMac. Another power outage, I'm afraid. We've had two of those this year. This first one was a temporary loss during March. I remember that well. I was in my Accounting class when the lights flickered on and off a few times during

See YEAR: Page 18

## Comforts and joys are relative: thinking of all the world's people this holiday season

As I slump exhausted in my little corner of Panera Bread Company at 78th and Dodge next to my bitter cup of cold java, I must now refocus my attention on typing this final column for our fall semester. I sometimes find myself believing no one else could possibly be hurting more than I, but then I do realize mine is only the classic sleep deprivation known all too well by fellow students wanting desperately to climb out of their slacker semesters. A boost to investment dividends for No Doz and Mountain Dew temporarily revitalizes the false belief that the stock market is somehow more than a mirage of optimism built upon stolen tomorrows.

Sullen, zombie-like faces, paralyzed with do-or-die terror (and the waning ability to feel the nerve-endings in our numbed extremities), are attached to lethargic bodies susceptible to tipping over with the slightest breeze like sleeping cows set off balance by a mean little nudge.

Sandwiched between my daughter's holiday choir concert in Lincoln, my other daughter's holiday concert in Yutan, my son's caroling and my magazine editing class replete with test, I had my final exam in radio production and an ad-campaign presentation in publication design and graphics that kept me up all night. This body hasn't felt the comfort of a horizontal incline since before sunrise yesterday.

Yet, just as any area hit by a natural disaster, there is little sympathy to go around. Everyone is feeling the final crunch leading up to some long-awaited days off. So chin up, back straight, more caffeine and we shall all trudge ahead.

Actually, I think about just how much we Americans take for granted. I mean really. Panera Bread? Plentiful coffee and overstuffed muffins in a warmly lit atmosphere? What is there to complain about? The most disturbing part of this scenario is when the automatic paper towel dispenser doesn't detect my first wave.

While I do feel the relatively temporary pain that comes with fatigue, I am embarrassed at my self-pity. Self-pity for me dissolves fast when I open my thoughts to the experiences of others, here and throughout the world--especially these days.

Our lives are too full of irony, oxy morons and paradoxes that have become accepted justifications for what is actually wrong. As children we are told not to hit, but it's okay to kill others when we turn 18? As children we are told "if you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all," and then there's Rush Limbaugh and Todd and Tyler. Let's face it. It's fashionable and lucrative to be mean in our culture.

So what will we be celebrating this December? What will people be thinking of during Mass? Can Americans give up the notion of violence and meanness, like beef and pork, for Lent? That would certainly be significant and something to celebrate. I just find it curious and frustrating how much of what we believe to be our reality is in direct conflict with itself.

Here we are in the United States, readying our yards and homes for yet another holiday season. But at the obvious risk of posing as the metaphorical Scrooge, should we really be celebrating?

This overabundance of conspicuous



Melanie Williams

consumption and waste we enjoy while the rest of the world's people struggles to survive is just not right. Despite what we like to think when we aren't really thinking too hard, our current comfort isn't a reward for nurturing our Earth or loving our neighbor or valuing common sense and encouraging goodwill. It's a combination of dumb luck and a meanness that helps us justify the dog-eat-dog mentality. In reality, we had no choice about

where we were born. We just popped into a part of the world that happens to be resource-wealthy, but only then after some of our ancestors slaughtered the indigenous people in order to lay some sort of claim to the land and air and water.

I know some readers will consider how this isn't the time for such topics. But is it ever the time? Is there a comfortable moment to discuss these things? Probably not. But that doesn't diminish the importance and rightness of it.

Our discomfort is mostly measured by what we were doing yesterday and plan to do tomorrow, and by people like me who can't just buy one of those blow-up Frosty the Snowmen and shut up. But until we view the lives of others as we view our own, I cannot justify deserving the rest or celebration.

So many people--just like you and me--haven't eaten in a very long time. Others are left trying to soothe their children to sleep through the terror of gunfire and random bombings--many of those deadly explosions paid for by our daily work. Still other people, even here, are waiting for their loved ones to come home, or worse, mourning the news that they will never again share the togetherness of a family gathering during the holidays.

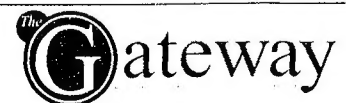
So inculcated I am with a sense of personal responsibility and subsequent bouts of great empathy and shame I feel for the horror of every preventable death, that I find it difficult to tolerate complaining from myself or others around me.

But this year, when we see ourselves jumping into the fervor of ostentatious buying and displaying, let's at least think about how Ramadan began and ended with the rumble of army tanks and fighter jets, causing wracks of pain and torment for so many Muslims suffering the evils of unjust strife--much of it supported by our own government. To truly understand and appreciate our own gatherings and rituals, we must acknowledge and respect the loss of the very same thing for our brothers and sisters in the world.

How can God/Allah smile warmly as we allow these things to go on?

Now before all the readers of this column

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### Editorial and letter policy

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## When emotion boils over

*Editor's note: This column was written the week of Nov. 19.*

As I sit here on a Saturday afternoon, I've seen haymakers and helmet swingings in the last two days in the sports world. I'm practically drooling waiting to see what week 11 of the NFL season has in store.

Now, don't get me wrong. I like to see a scrum just as much as the next. I also like to see the showboating that often precludes a fight. But this is starting to get ridiculous.

In my esteemed opinion, these fights are caused by several factors.

First of all, (and my favorite, by the way) is the fight caused by the unfathomable beat down the opposing team has just levied upon the other. I do enjoy these thoroughly. I find it humorous that once a team realizes they have no chance to win, the "I might as well kick his ace" mentality sets in. I may be mistaken, but it seems to me that this happens more in hockey games than anything else. Apparently several Ohio State players could not handle their Maverick-sized whoopin' Friday night. Please fellas, take a loss with some dignity and get ready for the next game.

Next is a situation I've really had trouble understanding. Sometimes these athletes get into fights when you least expect it, like when their team is up by 15 points. Last Friday, Ron Artest's Indiana Pacers were handling the defending champion Detroit Pistons.

Long story short:

-Artest fouls Detroit's Ben Wallace hard

-Artest gets hit with fan's beer

-Artest goes into stands

-Artest throws aforementioned haymakers at said fan.

Every time I see the theatrics put on by Artest, I ask myself, "Self, how stupid could someone possibly be?" Apparently Artest is no genius. How do you get into a fight with fans, less than a week after being suspending for asking for time off to promote your rap album, Mr. Artest. Last time I checked, you make a completely ludicrous amount of money for playing a game. Hmm. I don't know, but maybe you'll want to put the effort from promoting your album (which I'm sure will sell millions and millions of copies. Remember Shaq's album?) into, uh, basketball...

... Or maybe boxing.

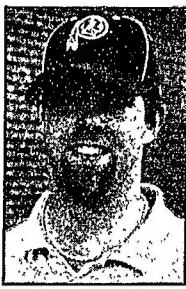
I kind of digressed, but I wanted you to know that I think Ron Artest has a problem.

*From Y.E. IR: Page 17*

class. I remember afterward walking to the Milo Bail Student Center where the fire alarms were slightly blaring and the Convenience Store and Bookstore had their security fences down. It was bedlam. I don't remember what else happened that day, but power issues would resurface during the fall break, when power was lost in the Durham Science Center, Weber Fine Arts and the Strauss Performing Arts buildings. Electric companies, in an attempt to fix this problem, also had to shut down the University Library and the Central Utilities Plant. Unfortunately, their temporary fix blew up in their faces, and a permanent fix was needed. Luckily, the fix was completed, and classes were back up and running after the fall holiday.

And, while most of us were enjoying the summer, there was even a little political shake-up of our own. With the resignation of L. Dennis Smith, the entire university system started looking for a

### The Weekly Rant



Andrew Crnic

Okay. Let me regroup. Oh yes, taunting. This also seems to be a good way to get a free knuckle sammich. Predominantly, I see these acts in the game nearest and dearest to my heart: football. As far as I can tell, the taunting really started becoming a problem when everyone's favorite NFL wide receiver, Terrell Owens, began scoring touchdowns.

How could any football fan forget the scene of him spiking the ball on the 50-yard-line star at Dallas when he played for San Francisco in 2000. Classic. The second time he did it though, Cowboys defensive back George Teague greeted him at center field with a forearm shiver. Probably the only hit the Cowboys put on him the whole game.

But Owens is the best. He is head and shoulders above every other receiver in the NFL. Some of you think Randy Moss is just as good but I'm here to tell you, he isn't.

I firmly believe when you are the best, you can be as big an ass as you want. If Owens wants to pretend to ice skate in the end zone after a touchdown, that's fine by me, as long as he backs it up on the field.

But all the coverage devoted to these outbursts is causing a trickle down effect, and I don't know how you can maintain a balance.

I understand it's hard to control grown men in the NFL. But this taunting crap is becoming commonplace in the college ranks. Last Saturday, there was a fight at the South Carolina-Clemson game. This is where I saw the previously mentioned helmet swinging. Somebody help me out on this, but if you're swinging a helmet from the facemask, you're over the line, right? Think about what happens if this helmet-swinging fool actually delivers a blow to someone else's head. That's probably a one-way ticket into a pine box.

And I'm sure you've heard about the head-butting incident in the Nebraska-Oklahoma game two weeks ago. It's nice to see that no matter how many times the good ole' U changes coaches, they'll always have a few criminals on the team. Uh, wait. I meant alleged criminals.

But this is what things have come to. Sooner rather than later, five-year-olds will be smacking each other around in soccer games, and ESPN will be there to show us the replay over and over.

new president. No, they didn't place an ad in the *Omaha World-Herald*; they actually formed a committee and started looking for one (my mother, the administrator for one of the UNMC colleges, actually sat on one of these search committees). Well, after narrowing down the list to four potential candidates, two dropped out of the running, and we ended up selecting James Milliken as our new President. It's amazing what can change over the summer, huh?

And with that, I end the year in review for 2004. Yeah, I know, this is supposed to be only about the fall semester. But I didn't have an article during the spring semester anyway, and with a new year around the corner, I thought it would be nice. Now, here's to everyone for a Happy 2005, and I'll see everyone again when we reconvene for the spring semester. Cheers!

## Bleeding out

This column was originally written last spring. I wrote it shortly after a sudden surge of Omaha-area close-calls dealing with school violence, and for one reason or another, the column never saw print. Unfortunately though, the issue is still just as relevant today as it was nine months ago.

A few weeks ago, a Bryan High School student was disciplined after school officials discovered a "hit list" the student had written. The list included the names of fellow Bryan High students and teachers the young man allegedly claimed he wanted to kill.

The list came to the attention of school officials when a student who saw the list reported it, fearing the student might harm his classmates.

Up until now, I've always shied away from addressing the issue of school violence in *Manic Digression*. Ever since that spring day in April of 1999, when Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris walked into Columbine High School and murdered 13 people, it's been a subject that hits just a little too close to home.

However, in light of recent local events and the subject matter being injected into the mainstream via films like *Elephant* and *Bowling for Columbine*, I've decided to pitch in my two cents, for whatever it's worth.

You see, I'm sympathetic. Not just to the victims of Columbine, but to the shooters as well. I'm sympathetic to the entire damned incident.

I don't take an ounce of pride in admitting that I had violent fantasies involving my classmates back in junior high and high school, but I did. Regardless of the morality of such daydreams, they crept their way into my mind on an almost daily basis.

Not unlike millions of others, I had it pretty rough in school. Growing up fat, dorky and unpopular should come with a manual on how not to end up slicing your wrists open by the time you're 18, but unfortunately that's not a luxury many kids get. Most of the time, they have to settle for a childhood of pain and rejection.

It's impossible to relate to this condition unless you've gone through it yourself. If not, don't even try. The same goes for school faculty, parents and even mental health professionals. The best that you can hope to do is understand the cause and effect of this phenomenon, analyze those parameters into a paradigm and then produce a solution.

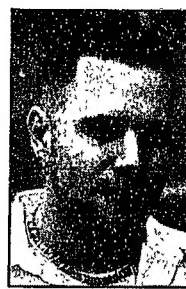
I realize that most people underestimate the severity of school-related adolescent trauma. I'm quite sure we all did, especially before the Columbine shootings. But to those who might be thinking that school is "rough for everybody" or that "kids are cruel and you've just got to suck it up," let me assure you that the torture that can be inflicted upon children by their peers is an anguish that would drive most of us to the breaking point, let alone pre-pubescent kids.

*From SEANON: Page 17*

choose to invest in Zoloft or Paxil, it is my hope that we will come to understand that we have more in common with each other, with the families in Iraqi and Palestine, Sudan and Afghanistan, Colombia and Cuba—that we have more in common with the majority of people in the world, regardless of the more superficial cultural and religious differences, than we do with the few shrewd people who are using us to kill each other. This is a happy and hopeful wish. It is a wish that fits the season better than buying a Santa suit.

When I hear my son or daughters sing holiday songs this season, they sing for all the people of the world, as the world is also

### Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

Although I harbor no pleasure for daydreaming about killing my tormenting classmates, it's not something I'm ashamed of, either. My imagination was the only outlet I had to vent my frustrations. I could act things out in my head so that—if even for an hour—it took the edge off. I imagine it's the same for countless other teens.

But in the case of Klebold and Harris, their imagination wasn't enough to quench their vindictiveness. Somehow, their fantasies ended up bleeding out into the real world and cost a dozen kids and a teacher their lives.

However visceral their endgame, it's not my belief that the measure of their torment necessarily had a direct relationship with their decision to murder their classmates. In other words, the response doesn't match the affliction. If it did, one can only imagine that they were tormented to such an extent that they had no other option to take the action they did—which, of course, we know can't be true.

So what was the key, then? What's the magic variable that determines whether or not an impressionable young kid—hungering for acceptance, more than anything—steps over the line and actually commits murder?

The answer isn't as elusive as it may seem. Other than severe mental psychosis (which I truly don't believe was the case in Columbine, based on court documents and other information that has been released), it all boils down to the manner in which the child is raised.

I can easily—and validly—use myself as an example. Although I frequently entertained these violent thoughts, I never truly possessed the ability to make them a reality. I was raised by loving parents, surrounded by caring relatives and nurtured by diligent role models.

The matter isn't necessarily one of intelligence; reports of the Columbine incident indicated that both shooters—while perhaps socially inept—possessed above-average intellects.

It's about love and attention, kindness and empathy. Not just from adults, but childhood peers as well. It's about educating teachers and school officials not to look the other way when 13-year-old Billy gets called a "faggot" during passing period. It's about taking responsibility for the world that we let our children live in.

What if Klebold and Harris would have learned the value of a human life when they were growing up? What if a teacher had noticed one of them being bullied in class, instead of noticing the rebellious clothing they were wearing?

What if a classmate, just like the one here in Omaha at Bryan High, gave a little extra thought to a comment made in passing? Maybe if those things had happened, there wouldn't be two dozen parents in Columbine who had to bury their children five years ago this spring.

singing for all of us. It's a time for humility and gratitude, not only for the comforts we have had and the good fortunes we have experienced, but for the human ties we have to wonderful people the world over.

To my fellow students: my wish is more immediate and simple, but nevertheless timely. I wish that you all get sleep, manage a few A's and get into all the classes you need next semester. And to the entire faculty and staff, thank you for a challenging semester. You kept us busy! I hope you all have a very happy holiday break filled with warmth, love and cheer. See you next year! (And perhaps the next year? and the next year?)



# Welcome to UNO Mav-Rec

554-2634 HPER 100 [www.unomaha.edu/~wwwocr](http://www.unomaha.edu/~wwwocr)

## HPER Building Hours Winter Break 2004

Friday, December 17: 6:30 am - 8 pm  
Saturday, December 18: 10 am - 4 pm  
Sunday, December 19: Noon - 6 pm  
Mon-Thurs, Dec. 20 - 23: 8 am - 6 pm

Fri. and Sat., Dec 24 & 25: CLOSED

Sunday, December 26: Noon - 4 pm  
Mon-Fri, Dec. 27-31: 10 - 4 pm

Saturday, January 1: CLOSED

Sunday, January 2: Noon - 4 pm  
Mon-Fri, Jan. 3 - 7: 6:30 am - 8 pm  
Saturday, January 8: 10 - 4 pm  
Sunday, January 9: Noon - 6 pm

For pool hours, please pick up a holiday schedule in HPER 100.

## Mav-Rec Outdoor Venture Center

### Check out the UNO Climbing Wall!

#### Climbing Wall Hours

Day	Time
Mon-Fri:	Noon - 9 pm
T/Thurs:	1 - 9 pm
Sat:	Noon - 8 pm
Sun:	Noon - 8 pm

**Belay Certification \$7.50 UNO / \$15 GP**  
This basic certification allows climbers access to the roped climbing wall.

#### Rental Center Hours

Day	Time
M-F:	2 - 6pm
Sat/Sun:	Noon - 2 pm

Some of the OVC Spring trips include:  
Rock Climbing at Palisades State Park  
and the Moab Backpacking Trip!

Check out all of OVC's Upcoming Events  
on the Campus Recreation Website or  
Pick up the Fall Trip Brochure in the  
HPER Building  
Questions? 554-2258/2539  
[ovc@unomaha.edu](mailto:ovc@unomaha.edu)

## Campus Recreation: the perfect on-campus job!

UNO Campus Recreation is a fun place to work. We offer a fun environment and the chance to meet other with your same interests.

Jobs currently available:

1-3 Positions: ID Checker  
1-2 Positions: Group Exercise Instructor

For more info or to apply, stop by HPER 100.

Injured while working out, participating in intramurals, or playing a game of basketball?

### Check out IPC (Injury Prevention and Care)

They provide FREE: - First Aid & Emergency Care  
- Injury Evaluations & Treatment  
- Taping  
- Injury & Rehabilitation Education  
- Professional Referrals

HPER Building Room 101  
Monday-Friday: Open 11am - 1pm  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri: Open 3pm - 6pm

## Mav-Rec GroupEx

There will be no GroupEx classes finals week and the during the holiday break. Spring GroupEx schedules will be out soon.

Thank you to all who participated in Group Ex this fall.



*Happy Holidays*

Campus Recreation hopes you have a safe and happy holiday break.

## Mav-Rec IM Sports

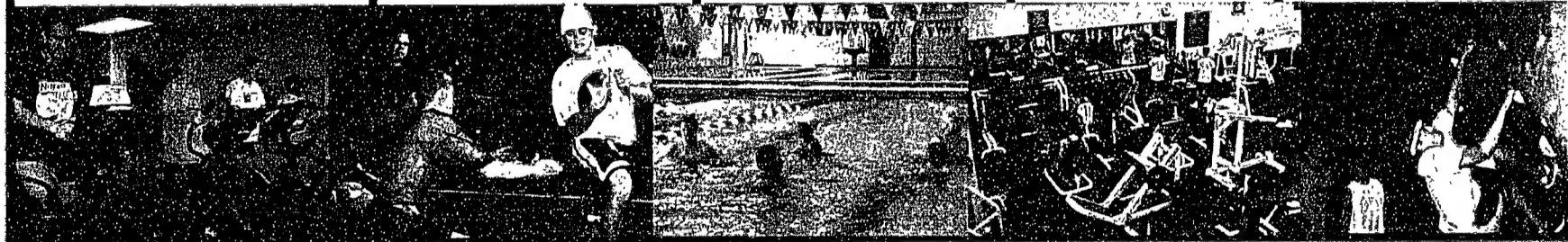
Get ready for IM Sports, Spring 2005!

**Session Three**  
5X5 Basketball  
6X6 Volleyball  
Indoor Soccer  
Raquetball Doubles

**Session Four**  
4X4 Flag Football  
Outdoor Soccer  
Softball  
3X3 Basketball  
Tennis Doubles

Plus a dozen more special events!  
Pick up a full schedule outside the Campus Recreation Office, HPER 100.

402 554 2539 (Main Office)  
402 554 2634 (IM Sports Office)  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Campus Recreation



The University of Nebraska is an equal opportunity / affirmative action institution.  
There are inherent risks involved in all Campus Recreation activities including loss of property, injury, illness, and death.

# Classified Ads

## NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

## LOST & FOUND

**FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO**  
Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648.  
Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

## HELP WANTED

Broadmoor Development is seeking an outgoing, detailed, professional individual to fill the position of a part-time weekend leasing consultant. Please apply in person at Willow Park Apartments, 9605 Park Drive, Omaha, NE 68127.

## CHILIS

132nd and Maple  
Hiring servers and M-F day host/hostess  
Stop in or call 498-4300

PM Bartender/Cocktail Waitress Needed. Apply in person @ The Library Pub. 5142 N. 90th St., Omaha.

Bartender/Server Wanted  
Bartenders must have experience  
Call for details 593-8814

Part-time babysitting  
West Omaha mom needs part-time babysitting help for three children under five. 4-6 hours, one day a week. Flexible schedule. Please call Mary-Ellen at 493-0903.

## PART-TIME NANNY NEEDED

Non-smkr with childcare exp. Needed M-F 1:30-5:30pm. Starts Jan. Midtown location. Refs required. Call 980-3400.

## FOR RENT

5 bedroom house  
3 full bathrooms  
Awesome place. 3 minutes from school. Call 689-2211.

## Enclave Apartments

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huge floor plans  
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key access entries  
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9910 Q Street, Omaha, NE  
331-4100  
[www.broadmoordevelopment.com](http://www.broadmoordevelopment.com)

## FOR SALE

All cash vending route for sale. 50 high traffic locations. \$36,000 approximate annual income. Sell for \$5,000. 1-800-568-1392 or [www.vendingthatworks.com](http://www.vendingthatworks.com)

## ROOMMATE WANTED

Outgoing college-age person to share 4 bedroom Papillion house with 3 guys. Horseshoe pit, bar in basement, quiet neighborhood. \$250+ utilities. Call Ryan 679-1495.

2 Rooms for rent. Quiet college house on 60th & Woolworth. \$325 + util. Contact Jake at 312-6930.

One current and two recently graduated UNO students looking for a roommate for the coming semester and beyond. Utilities are entirely Paid by owner and you will have a free Garage Space too. \$400/month and the entire basement of a Nice West Omaha House will be yours. (All the roommates are men.) Call Drew @ 598-5603.

## SERVICES

Award winning photojournalist style wedding photography, will work on short notice. Chris 578-6456 or [www.machianphoto.com](http://www.machianphoto.com)

Musicians/Actors/Entertainers  
NEED PRESS?  
Contact Moxie PR  
Melissa  
[melissa@moxiepublicrelations.com](mailto:melissa@moxiepublicrelations.com)  
Or 402-677-0930

Attention Ladies - MALE DANCERS for hire. Birthdays, bachelorettes, all ladies fun events! 402-714-4853.

Loans, Good/Bad Credit we can help!  
1-866-407-8349.

## PIANO INSTRUCTION

Experienced, caring teacher with Master's Degree. Children & adults of all ages welcome. Donna Zebolsky 991-5774

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Contemporary Floorplans  
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391-0877  
[www.broadmoor.cc](http://www.broadmoor.cc)

Laundromat 120  
Clean self-serve coin laundry  
2448 South 120th Street (120th Street between Center & Pacific St.)  
Open 7:00 AM-10:00 PM  
New, large washers & dryers  
Vending: soap, soda, coins

## HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommate lists - call UNO off-campus Housing Referral Service at 554-2383 or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Bail Student Center.

## APARTMENTS

AVAILABLE 40th & Cass Streets (Between Cathedral and Joslyn Castle)  
Large 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments Carpet, Central Air, All appliances  
Lease from \$395-\$550 per month \$99 deposit special  
Heat and Water Paid  
Belgrade Company  
393-6306 or [www.belgrade.com](http://www.belgrade.com)

Beautiful 1+bdm condo. All appliances. Hardwood floors/crown molding. Secure building. \$47,000. Monthly assessment of \$115 includes exterior maintenance, snow removal/lawn care, water & insurance. A must see! 345-4734 for showing.

**DUNDEE, 1 BEDROOM, \$450.**  
Move-In Discount  
Security; Heat/Water Paid, Parking, Laundry Air  
4620 Wakeley St. 551-0416.

2 & 3 bed duplexes, \$600 & \$800, UNO area, Will check refs, 5212 Pierce, 896-2120, [www.omahaprop.com](http://www.omahaprop.com)

## One Bedroom Apt.

\$510.00/month w/ No App. Fee. Current Specials - Call Now! #341-5000.

Midtown condo for sale: 1 bed, 1 bath, 1 car garage, patio, newer flooring, stove, dishwasher, ceiling fans, window treatments stay. \$54k. Call Julie at 342-4636.

## VOLUNTEER

#1 Spring Break Website! Lowest prices guaranteed. Book 11 people, get 12th trip free! Group discounts for 6+.  
[www.SpringBreakDiscounts.com](http://www.SpringBreakDiscounts.com) or 800-838-8202.

Spring Break 2005. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or [www.ststravel.com](http://www.ststravel.com)

Call us at 554-2470

Check us out at [www.unogateway.com](http://www.unogateway.com)



*Happy Holidays*

*from The Gateway staff*

# More Than Theory

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